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# The Barry GEM



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THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2011

## Barry's Miss Marple solves 'Case of the Disappearing Purse' on Holton Road

A BARRY grandmother turned Miss Marple to solve 'The Case of the Disappearing Purse' on Holton Road - and like all good mysteries, there was a twist ending.

The woman is in her 80s and does not want to be identified, but she approached The GEM because she was so indignant at what happened.

A couple of weeks

by TIM  
CHAPMAN

ago, she went shopping in Barry town centre.

"I went into Town News Extra to pick up The Sun and as I was getting my 30p out, I left my purse on the newspaper rack but didn't realise.

"After going out, I discovered that I did not have my purse and returned to the newsagents.

"I thought I'd had my purse going up to the counter and asked the

staff if they had seen it, but they hadn't."

The woman hurried off to Barclays Bank to cancel her card.

Once the elderly woman had finished that task, she gave her details to a policewoman who had been on King Square.

The elderly woman decided to pop back to Town News Extra to see if the purse had been handed in because it also contained £30.

Staff consulted the CCTV system and what they saw was illuminating. It showed the elderly woman going up to pay for The Sun. She was actually carrying the case to her glasses as she approached the counter - hence the reason she thought she had left the purse at the counter.

The images confirmed she had left her purse on the rack.

The CCTV showed her leaving the shop and a middle aged couple coming in.

She claimed: "The woman pointed at it, the man picked it up and they went out. The image was clear."

A person in the shop recognised the couple as regulars of a Barry pub.

Off set the intrepid grandmother to see if she could track them down. Barely yards along Holton Road, who should see in front of her but the couple who had been featured on the CCTV footage!

The elderly woman alleged the following exchange took place:

"I said to her 'excuse me, can I have my purse back?'"

"She said: 'I don't know what you are talking about' and 'You have made a mistake.'"

"I said I hadn't and that the shop had a video. She went to pieces, and handed it back and started saying sorry.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 5)

## 'PLEASE SAVE OUR CINEMA!'



SOCA supporters delivered a letter to the Vale Council offices on Holton Road on Friday, March 18.  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR THE FULL STORY.

## BARRY MAN IS JAILED FOR SEX OFFENCES

A BARRY man has been jailed for four years at Cardiff Crown Court for sex offences.

Mitchell Timmins (24) unemployed of Barry, had been found guilty of two charges of sexual activity with a child.

He was found not guilty of three charges of sexual activity with a child.

Prosecutor Martin Kelly said the offences occurred in the area some years ago.

Timmins denied that he had done anything inappropriate.

The mother of the victim said in an impact statement that the girl was afraid she would bump into Timmins.

Timmins' counsel Heath Edwards said: "There is no suggestion there has been any harassment and he has not tried to seek the girl out."

He said his parents had been acutely anxious at his predicament. "He is a man who can be constructive and who can show commitment. The court should not wash their hands of him."

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones said Timmins touched the girl's breasts, which caused her to 'freeze' and not know what to do.

Such conduct, said the judge, was not indicated in Timmins' background.

"I am of the view that

you are not, at the moment, a danger to the public but the offences were caused by drink and arrogance and it falls at the lower end for such offences."

Timmins was ordered upon his release to register as a sex offender for life and he was also banned from working

with children for life, and a restraining order was made, preventing Timmins from contacting the victim.

AJ SICLUNA

Don't forget -  
the clocks go  
forward on  
Sunday! See  
page 16 for  
our special  
feature.

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## Obscene bonus culture... 'MAKE RICH PAY THEIR DUES'

**W**HILE it was sad to read last week in The GEM about James Brigham's problems in claiming jobseeker's allowance, ('Barry man claims he is destitute') blaming the overseas aid budget is an all too easy target.

While many people in this country are suffering the painful effects of public sector cuts, we are not losing our children to malaria, giving birth without anaesthetic, or having to choose which of our children must die because the local hospital does not have enough oxygen. This is real destitution.

The UK has committed to spend just 0.7 per cent of its national income on overseas aid by 2013, a drop in the ocean for one of the richest countries in the world. Instead of cutting off our help to the Third

World, we should be focusing our anger on the obscene bonus culture enjoyed by bankers despite the billions of pounds of taxpayers' money spent in bailing them out.

One in seven children in Africa die before the age of five. As last week's epic Comic Relief showed, the people of this country do care about the plight of people on the other side of the world, and it is only right that we show human compassion in good times, as well as bad.

Instead of punishing those who have to make life and death choices every day by cutting aid, we should be campaigning to ensure that the richest in society pay their dues.

**Felicity Waters, Barry.**

## Cost of the Referendum?

**S**O the National Assembly got their way, but do the people of Wales realise at what cost?

Take the constituents of the Vale as an example: there are 24 council wards, each with a designated polling station.

These employed two or more people to run at a salary of £100-£150 each, plus the cost of hiring the hall.

Add to that, these people were paid for training, then multiply that by all of the constituent councils all over Wales, for a turnout of just over 40 per cent.

Then there is the cost of the final count to this farce.

This says a lot about the interest of the people of Wales in giving the Welsh Assembly more powers.

What made me sick was the AMs hugging one another at the ballot outcome.

On a Question Time programme two weeks ago from Newport, a Plaid Cymru AM on the panel was asked if the vote was yes, would it

be true that 20 more AMs would be employed plus their aides and office room?

He just laughed, but did not deny the fact. How much will that cost us?

The law as it stands is an ass. When important decisions are to be made by the ballot box there should be a limit on the turnout figures: if they are less than 50 per cent, the ballot result should be called null and void, and remain as status quo.

The Welsh Assembly have more important things to get on with. We have community charges going up 3.5 per cent, people are struggling to pay their way with rising energy and water charges going up, petrol prices out of reach of some pensioners, and people losing their jobs, and the lack of maintenance on our roads (potholes).

This is exactly what the benefit changes by the UK Coalition should look at.

As a taxpayer, I am fed up with those who

seem to be workshy. People have got to realise that the UK is not a charity.

The state should support those in genuine need, but that is where it should end.

Apparently, the mother cannot support her son for more than a few days. I am curious as to the benefits package going into that family.

There are several children, and the mother is pregnant again. I hope she can afford it, as she says she cannot afford to look after her son!

I have no sympathy either for Mr Brigham's statement that he cannot afford to see his daughter.

Does the mother have no money to bring the child to see its father?

**Mark Stone, Barry**

## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE *Readers' Letters*

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## 'RAISE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE X45 SERVICE'

**I**HAVE received a number of complaints from residents about the standard of service that passengers have been receiving when trying to use the bus service X45 which runs from Llantwit Major to Cardiff via Boverton, St Athan, Rhoose, Cardiff Airport, Barry, Dinas Powys and Llandough.

People may not know that service X45 is operated commercially by EST Bus Ltd and the Vale Council has no legal jurisdiction over the route or the vehicles that are used.

I have already made VOSA aware of the concerns that have been raised with me in

respect of timekeeping and vehicle standards which I hope will see an improvement in the service received by residents.

I would like to invite anyone who feels that they have a specific point to make about this service to contact the Vehicle and Operators Services Agency (VOSA) acting on behalf of the Traffic Commissioner for Wales.

Their contact details are as follows:

Welsh Area Traffic Office,  
Ardal Drafndiaeth Cymru,  
Hillcrest House,  
386 Harehills Lane,  
LEEDS,  
LS9 6NF.  
I would still encour-

age all residents to use these commercial services, because if they are not used they could be withdrawn by the operator.

The current timetables for bus services X45 and X91 can be found on the Vale of Glamorgan website at: [http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/transport/public\\_transport/buses/timetables.aspx](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/transport/public_transport/buses/timetables.aspx) or by telephoning the council's contact centre on 01446 700111.

**Coun Jeffrey James, (cabinet member for planning and transportation, Vale Council).**

## 'Who pays for the benefits?'

**I**WONDER how many readers of The GEM were incensed at a story in last week's issue – and not for the reasons the subject intended?

I refer to the story regarding the young man angry that his job seeker's allowance was suspended, due to his non-compliance with the system, and then his family's disgust that they cannot afford to feed him.

When you have children, among the many obligations it brings are the financial ones. I have two children and work to support them, as do all of the families I know.

I would love to have more children, but I know that I cannot afford to support them.

Mr Brigham's mother complains that she cannot afford to even feed her son in his time of need, yet she is pregnant with what seems to be her sixth child? In a

house supported by benefits, who is going to pay for this?

They express anger about the Coalition government supporting Third World countries. Well, let me complain that I like many working parents am sick and tired of the government supporting people who do not work and continue to have children.

As a single mother myself, I could easily join the 'Benefit Society' and have my rent and council tax paid for, but I choose to set a good example to my children.

If I was in the unfortunate position where I could not afford to feed my child, I certainly would not broadcast it in the local paper.

How skewed is our society when these people feel it is their entitlement to be supported by a government when they do not work, and then further increase the burden on it by having so many children? (Name and address supplied)

## 'Benefits only for those in need'

**Y**OUR leading story in The GEM on

March 17 about the 21-year-old who has had his jobseeker's allowance stopped, raises an interesting question.

If as a society we decide that benefits should be available only to those in true need, then we also need to have the stomach for 'sanctions' if claimants do not fulfil their part of the agreement.

We don't know all the facts, but two job applications does not sound much, unless it was over a period of a couple of days – and looking on the internet is not what I would call actively looking.

Job seeking should

occupy the major part of every day. It means registering with agencies – there are many in Cardiff.

It means daily checking for new advertisements and sending your CV and application for all possible jobs – whatever the role, whatever the pay, whatever the hours.

It means taking advantage of all the help available.

It is the country's taxpayers who have been betrayed by the system, not this young man.

The phrase "living on benefits as a life-style choice" comes to mind, and it is this attitude that should no longer be tolerated. Whatever the headlines.

(Name and address supplied)

**'SANCTION' ON JOBSEEKER**  
In last week's Barry GEM, a local man, Mr James Brigham, said he was 'destitute' after being disqualified from jobseeker's allowance due to a 'sanction'. The story generated quite a response from GEM readers as you can see from the letters below.

## 'Do more for your benefits'

**R**EADING a GEM report last week, I was infuriated by the young man's lack of effort whilst expecting to still receive his benefits.

After losing my job, and being on benefits for almost a year in 2009, I understand how hard it is to find a job, but he is not meeting the minimum efforts in order to say he is actively seeking a job!

Applying for only two main jobs and having a wander around Cardiff to find jobs is nowhere near enough!

When I was claiming, I had to provide proof that I had applied for at least five jobs each week, look at three different websites and in at least two newspapers a week, and I, like many others I know, by far outdid this just from desperation of needing a job. It is also the agreement that you sign when you sign on to receive benefits.

His excuse for not having a permanent address is not acceptable. He can collect his post from his mother's, so he should use her

address for correspondence until he has found his own. It's what the rest of us had to do.

It is fair to say that the Job Centre system does not pass out 'sanctions' on a whim, only when it is evident you are not meeting the minimum criteria – and even then, you do receive verbal warnings beforehand that you are not looking enough.

I agree with the system that he does not seem to be doing enough, especially with it being so hard to get a job at this time.

I believe this story you have printed will only pose damage to the system, as it criticises the protocol sent in place to ensure you do enough to help yourself; therefore more people will think they can do less for their money and it will take longer for people such as Mr Brigham, to find a job, thus adding to the stress that they feel as well as the system.

So, in short, he should meet his minimum requirement agreement to claim and even surpass it, and then he shouldn't have a problem.

**R Evans**

## 'Job Centre right to cut benefits'

**I**FEEL I must express my disgust after reading the recent GEM report headed 'Barry man claims he is destitute after Job Centre bars him from jobseeker's allowance'.

It is entirely right for the job centre to cut benefits when the claimant has not made a concerted effort to apply for employment, whatever

the personal circumstances.

At 21, working people are unable to find affordable housing, so it frustrates me that James has applied to be housed, when I assume this would be funded by housing benefit.

Parents have a duty to accommodate and feed their children, even if the home is overcrowded; it is not the responsibility of the taxpayer. (Name and address supplied)

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 31)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

| DATE    | Time  | Ht  | Time  | Ht  |
|---------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
|         | AM    | M   | PM    | M   |
| 24 Thur | 09.24 | 9.7 | 21.39 | 9.4 |
| 25 Fri  | 10.08 | 8.9 | 22.27 | 8.4 |
| 26 Sat  | 10.52 | 8.1 | 23.23 | 8.0 |
| 27 Sun  |       |     | 13.01 | 7.5 |
| 28 Mon  | 01.56 | 7.6 | 14.41 | 7.3 |
| 29 Tues | 03.29 | 7.5 | 16.05 | 7.4 |
| 30 Wed  | 04.35 | 7.9 | 17.07 | 8.0 |
| 31 Thur | 05.27 | 8.5 | 17.51 | 8.7 |

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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**A**LUN CAIRNS MP can't have it both ways:

He uses his GEM column to staunchly defend the UK Government's cuts programme, but when it comes to cuts in his own constituency, he never misses a photo opportunity to defend a local service facing the axe.

For example, he has placed on record his opposition to the closure of the Vale Magistrates Court and criticised the

decision to shelve the St Athan Training Academy.

However, as a member of the ruling political party that has taken those decisions.

Either you support the cuts programme or you don't.

If you do, as Alun clearly does, you have no credibility or moral authority when it comes to defending local services.

**Jeff Evans, (Llantwit Major and St Athan Labour Party)**

# CINEMA PROTESTERS STAGE A DEMO ON HOLTON ROAD, BARRY

**SUPPORTERS of the Save Our Cinema Association staged a protest outside the Civic Offices on Friday afternoon, March 18, to voice their hopes that the Theatre Royal can be preserved for local big screen entertainment.**

As protesters enthusiastically waved their

banners, dozens of cars and vans sounded their horns in support – including a council vehicle.

With a planning decision on the Theatre Royal site in the offing, SOCA stalwarts Russell Wells and Paul Sutton explained that the afternoon demonstration was designed to highlight that the group believed the former cinema site was

an unsuitable location for Extra Care.

Extra Care facilities seek to give elderly people more support than sheltered complexes, but more independence than residential care. The Hafod Care Association says it wants to provide a landmark building in the town and a much needed care provision for the Vale. Mr Wells explained why he thought Extra

## REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

Care should be provided elsewhere: "Today was a peaceful protest as part of our campaign against redevelopment of the Theatre Royal for Extra Care.

"We are not against Extra Care – it is the right scheme, but in the wrong location."

Mr Wells said the redeveloped building would be six storeys – to accommodate the 42 unit facility – and that meant it would be incompatible with the rest of the area.

He argued that constructing flats for the elderly on a busy junction which includes a late night venue, The Savoy, was wrong.

Paul Sutton pointed out that there was an issue over local parking. "There is no on-site

parking for staff and visitors to the complex which will rely on street parking."

Mr Sutton added: "We want to thank everyone who attended the protest. Four children handed over a letter to the Vale Council pointing out that there was no cinema in Barry and that Extra Care should be provided elsewhere."

Jon Williams of the Cinema Theatre Association Cymru was also at Holton Road to give his backing to the protesters.

He said: "It seems a strange place to put this building – and the community has lost another amenity. It would be more appropriate for the new building to go to the Waterfront."

Mr Williams cited one 'Vale' area where people had saved a cinema for the community as an example to people in south Wales that the death of the local flicks was not inevitable.

In the Vale of Evesham the art deco 'The Regal' is undergoing a facelift and with council support will open later this year.

The Vale's Assembly member, Jane Hutt, joined protesters and also highlighted that with the will communities were holding on to vital amenities.

"There are cinemas in towns all over Wales and some are re-opening with regeneration funds. I hope we can see this happen in Barry."

"It is important that we have good access to leisure facilities in Barry

as part of our regeneration and a cinema would meet the needs of all generations as the Theatre Royal did – so successfully."

Plaid's Dr Ian Johnson commented: "I hope that the planning committee refuse permission for the Extra Care home because I believe that site should house a cinema and entertainment complex – as it always has done."

"Barry needs to have both a cinema and an Extra Care home. We shouldn't have to choose between one or the other."

Robert Wathen, the managing director of Hafod Care, said the care provider was excited by the prospect of bringing Extra Care to the town and stressed it would be an asset to the local area and the residents.

He said: "We appreciate that SOCA is keen to see the building restored as a cinema but the reality is that the building was empty long before we submitted the plans to develop it into Extra Care accommodation."

"We believe that this will be an excellent use for a site that has been left derelict for many years and is now in a very poor state of repair. "The location is perfect for a development of this type."

"Right in the heart of the town centre, it will allow the residents to access a wide range of amenities on their doorstep without having to travel anywhere."

"It represents a significant investment into the town centre and will help to regenerate this important area of Barry."

## Happy families get together

**HIGH Street Primary School in Barry recently launched the Happy High Street Families group.**

The aim is to work closely with parents and guardians and provide opportunities for parents to meet informally.

Outside agencies will be invited to the Thursday coffee mornings to provide information for parents on fire

safety, first aid, child care and health. Community Focused Schools, a Vale Council initiative, has provided initial funding for the venture and Tracey Scott and Lesley Matthews organise weekly sessions.

Last week, the group met for an Easter activity session. Parents made Easter cards using a wide range of materials and also made Easter cakes for their children.

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Sunday  
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## COURT HEARS OF MAN'S TROUBLED CHILDHOOD

# Drug suppliers receive 18-month community order

A PAIR of drug suppliers from Barry have each been sentenced to a community order for 18 months, and a supervision order for a similar period, at Cardiff Crown Court.

Rhys Ruck (22) and Ashley Mills (18) both of Barry, each admitted supplying heroin. Ruck was also ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work for the community.

Judge Neil Bidder pointed out that the drug involved had been supplied at the instigation of a relation of Mills.

Ruck, he said, had been drawn into the incident out of loyalty to Mills, a person, said the judge, who had had "a dreadful upbringing".

Prosecutor Sian Phillips said that at 4.15pm on October 11, a detective constable on duty in Holton Road, Barry, spotted the pair who were involved in

by AJ SICLUNA

supplying a small wrap of heroin.

The police followed the man who had made the purchase and found the drug on him.

The defendants were arrested two months later.

Mills said it was the first time she had committed such an offence and Ruck said exactly the same thing, said Ms Phillips.

Mills, the court heard, had convictions for theft and handling.

Ruck had convictions for affray, shoplifting and possessing amphetamine.

The judge ordered that the drug be forfeited and destroyed.

Ian Ibrahim for Ruck said he had admitted his involvement from the start and he had made no financial gain. The offence was at the lower end of supplying.

The heroin, he said,

came originally from someone else, on whose behalf it was handed over.

He said Ruck had had a troubled childhood and all he wanted was to make progress in life.

Mr Ibrahim said the offence was committed in exceptional circumstances.

The counsel for Mills, Claire Pickthall, said Mills too had had a difficult childhood.

Mills, she said, had been introduced to heroin at the age of 15, but there was light at the end of the tunnel.

For a period, she said, Ruck had taken her under his wing and she had been drug free for some time, except for one aberration.

"She remains a vulnerable person and would welcome assistance. She has a mature head and realises her choices in life.

"She has educational qualifications and the offer of a job."

## Vale literary festival will boost charity

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Vale will stage its first literary festival on May 16-22, with some big names lined up.

Among those appearing in Cowbridge will be Alistair Campbell, Tony Blair's former spokesman in Number 10 Downing Street, and local thriller writer, Belinda Bauer.

One of the organisers, Stella Cheeseman, explained: "The prime focus of this event will be presentations by notable and up and coming authors.

"Apart from promoting interest in book reading, a key objective will be to raise funds for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

"We are delighted to announce that Alastair Campbell has confirmed that he will speak about his second volume of riveting diaries 'Power to the People'.

"This is the second of four volumes which covers the first two years of the New Labour Government, beginning with their landslide victory in 1997."

BBC TV personality Jamie Owen will introduce and chair 'In Conversation with Alistair Campbell'.

The other confirmed authors are Catrin Collier, Horatio Clare, Tessa Hadley, Fiona Mountain and another local author, Rhys Thomas.

The Vale's award winning novelist, Belinda Bauer, will take part in a crime writers' evening on May 18, in which four authors will discuss their craft.

Jamie Owen will also give a talk on his book Around Wales by B-Roads and Byways.

Several children's authors have expressed their interest, and The Etherington Brothers and Sheena Crossley have already confirmed they will attend.

A number of well known local buildings have agreed to help stage the event.

The Old Hall, Cowbridge United Free Church, the town's library and St Aubin Nursery (formerly the Old Health Centre) have all offered their premises.

In addition, a vintage and craft fayre will be

held in the grounds of Old Hall on Saturday, May 21. During the month of May a photographic exhibition by talented local photographers will provide additional interest in the Old Hall Gallery.

Stella added: "The Cowbridge Book Festival is a real opportunity for the people of the Vale and surrounding areas to try something new and to help raise much needed funds for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, a very worthwhile cause.

"Our task is to make sure the festival is publicised not only to people in the Vale, but also to those in Bridgend and Cardiff.

"There is the potential to raise a fair bit of money while people are having a good time. Hopefully, if things go well, this will be the first festival of many."

During the literary week, there will be a bookshop in Old Hall which will feature the festival authors' books with profits going to charity.

Tickets for these events will be available from the beginning of April, for further detail contact Stella Cheeseman 01446 774827.

## Candidates sign housing pledge



PICTURED (left to right): Angela Jones-Evans, Chris Franks, Damian Chick and Jane Hutt with Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd Housing Association.

MORE than 100 tenants and organisations questioned Vale Assembly election candidates on housing, care and regeneration at Barry Memorial Hall last week.

Jane Hutt AM (Labour), Angela Jones-Evans (Conservative), Chris Franks AM (Plaid Cymru) and Damian Chick (Liberal Democrat) were the political party representatives who signed a pledge to show that they were on board in giving housing, care and regeneration a focus should they be elected in the next National Assembly for Wales.

Vicky Ibbertson from the Vale Housing

Federation, Heather Douglas, a tenant at Newydd, Richard Thomas from Care and Repair in the Vale, Sion Peacock from Hafod Care, Francis Page from Grwp Gwalia, Katherine Davies, Joanne Bass, Kay Slee and Angela Fagin from Castleland Communities First gave a variety of talks, presentations, videos and poems.

This was followed by a question time on a variety of issues, including secured tenancies, affordable homes, Future Jobs fund, Communities First funding and achieving the right balance between prevention and cure in health and social care delivery.

Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd

and chair at the event said: "Allowing tenants, the general public, charities and social landlords to come together as one voice was extremely successful in ensuring that the candidates realised the importance of housing, care and regeneration."

Nick Bennett, group chief executive of Community Housing Cymru said: "Housing associations provide so much more than brick and mortar - they help build communities all over Wales and create jobs and training opportunities for local people.

"For every one person employed by a housing association, another two and a half jobs are supported in the Welsh economy."

## STITCH IN TIME AT THE PALMERSTON CENTRE

Staff at Palmerston Community Learning Centre in Barry are preparing for a new event that will showcase a variety of patchwork and textiles classes.

The Stitch in Time event will take place on April 1-2 between 10am and 3pm at Palmerston Community Learning Centre and is open to everyone.

Throughout the two-day event, there will be an exhibition of patchwork and quilting, along with dressmaking, bags and textiles produced by adult learners at the centre.

There will be a drop-in crochet circle for complete beginners wishing to learn to crochet. Improvers are also welcome to join in the fun!

Visitors to the event will have the opportunity to take part in free taster workshops in patchwork, dressmaking, and bags and accessories and learn some basic stitching skills to produce some simple mats, scarves and fashion accessories.

More experienced learners can brush up on their sewing machine skills, alterations, fashion reworking or share ideas for future projects.

The free taster workshops will be taking place between 10am-11am and 1pm-2pm and a free creche is available.

Anyone interested in the workshops is advised to call the centre to reserve a place on 01447 733762.

## Drop in to our Stitch in Time Textiles Event

on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd April 10-3pm at Palmerston Centre

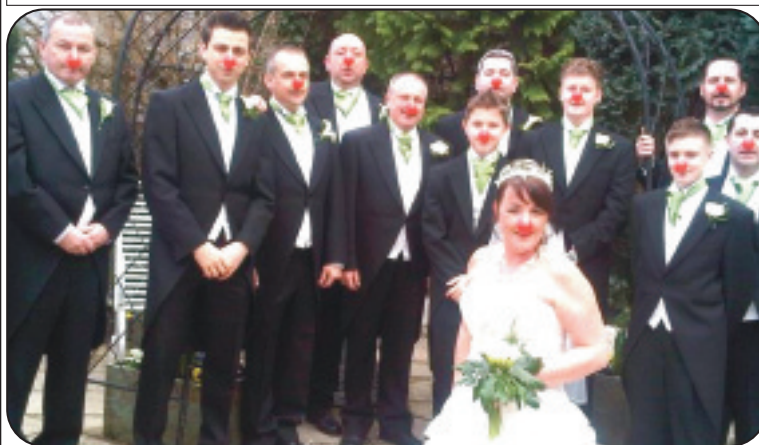
Exhibition of Patchwork and Textiles with Free Taster Workshop Sessions! Dressmaking, Patchwork, Bags and Crochet with Free Creche

To book a workshop place or for more information Contact Palmerston centre 01446 733762

Barry Adult & Community Learning



## BARRY COUPLE'S 'AMAZING DAY' Red Nose wedding at The Bear Hotel!



## Guests spring a surprise!

When Mandy Armstrong-Brown married Alan Thorne (third from left) at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge on March 18, the guests surprised the happy couple with a 'Red Nose' surprise to mark national Red Nose Day which raises funds for those in the UK and abroad.

Mandy told The GEM: "It was an amazing surprise. It was Dean Murdock, Alan's best man, who had the idea." Mandy's two chief-bridesmaids were Alice Thorne and Sharon Murdock. Mandy and Alan live in Barry and are now away on honeymoon in the mountains of north Wales!

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# BARRY MAN WITH MACHETE JAILED FOR EIGHT YEARS

A machete-wielding attacker has been jailed for eight years at Cardiff Crown Court for going to the home of a man in Barry and leaving him with serious injuries.

Nicholas Long (23) of Barry was told by Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones: "You armed yourself with a machete which you had bought a short time before."

"You went to the home of Danny McKee, who was not your intended victim. You intended to use that machete. You wielded it at Mr McKee and aimed it at his head."

The judge added: "If you had struck him to the head you might today be facing an even more serious charge."

Defence counsel Owen Williams said Long had not been involved in random violence. There was a catalyst which didn't excuse

## REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

what had occurred in "a moment of madness".

Long pleaded guilty to a charge of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Prosecutor John Lloyd said Mr McKee, who was known to Long, was at his home in Barry on January 2 with his partner.

He was a friend of Long's sister and she had stayed at that address. Long, said Mr Lloyd, believed ill of a friend of hers.

Mr McKee became aware of an incident outside his front door and heard Long having an argument and wielding a machete.

Seconds after, said Mr Lloyd, he "launched" at Mr McKee, raised the machete and brought it down in the direction of his head.

Mr McKee put an arm out and was struck on the left hand. Long raised the weapon a second time and struck a

door. Mr McKee went into his home bleeding heavily from a cut which required 27 stitches.

He had to be operated upon for a wound which extended from his little finger to his wrist.

Mr McKee referred to an incident three weeks earlier which could possibly have been a motive, said Mr Lloyd.

Mr McKee, he pointed out, was the totally innocent party.

"He was unarmed and not expecting what happened."

There was, said Mr Lloyd, a 12cm cut, he could not flex his little finger and there was tendon and nerve damage.

Altogether, he underwent two operations, was detained in hospital for four days and has extensive physiotherapy, which is continuing.

Mr Lloyd said he suffered "excruciating pain".

"He has lost part of the use of his left hand

and finds even mundane tasks difficult. He said he was traumatised by the incident and, a former Royal Engineer, fears employment would be jeopardised because of his lack of a grip."

Long was said to have convictions for possessing drugs, setting fire to a vehicle, possessing a bladed item and a knuckle duster, robbery, possessing LSD and for assault.

The machete, said Mr Lloyd, was never recovered.

Mr Williams produced four references for Long, who he said was part of a close family unit.

He accepted that the incident was in the top category of such offences.

He said that despite a disrupted upbringing, Long had been industrious and provided generously for his family.

"Never before has he been convicted of such serious violence and he accepts full culpability."

## Police seek two suspects after taxi man robbed

POLICE investigating the robbery of a Penarth taxi driver just before 2.30am on Sunday, March 20 have issued e-fit images of two suspects.

They said two young males approached the taxi on Albert Road in Penarth, armed with a baseball bat and an imitation firearm and demanded cash. They made off with cash from the taxi.

The first suspect is described as white, aged around 17 years-old and about 5ft 9-10ins tall. He is of fat build with a chubby round face. He had short blonde hair and blue eyes. He was wearing a grey hooded top and grey tracksuit bottoms and spoke with a Cardiff accent.

The second suspect is also white and between 14 and 17 years old. He is about 5ft 8ins tall and of skinny build. He has short dark hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a black tracksuit with a blue diagonal band running underneath the blue band, and black tracksuit bottoms and a black beanie-style hat with a white motif on it.

If you have any information, contact Detective Constable Kimberley Reynolds at Penarth CID on 029 20527354, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Photofits of the suspects.

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## The strange story of the 'lost' purse!

LEFT: Staff at Town News Extra were particularly helpful when a customer was mystified as to why her purse had disappeared.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"I asked: 'Where is my £30?' and the man got it out of his pocket and gave it back.

"I said: 'I don't know how you can do something like this. I am an elderly woman and I have had a terri-

ble day.'

"She put her arms round me and said: 'I'm so sorry', but it didn't make any difference to me."

When the elderly woman said the police were involved, the woman claimed they were going to hand the

purse back.

The elderly woman returned to Town News Extra to tell the staff how grateful she was for their help.

"They were wonderful - two men and a lady - so helpful. I went there to thank them for helping me."

The GEM spoke to the staff in the shop who confirmed the elderly woman's version of events.

A police spokesman said: "Police in Barry would like to speak to a male and a female who took a purse which had been left behind by a female shopper on a newspa-

per rack in a Holton Road store.

"The incident was captured on CCTV and when the shopper returned the couple were identified on the CCTV footage and were approached on Holton Road by the shopper, who demanded the return of her property."

"The incident was later reported to the police."

"As a result of further investigations the police would now like to speak to the couple concerned."

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# South Wales charities in a plea to people in Vale: 'KEEP GIVING WITH CARE!'

**LOCAL charities** The Noah's Ark Appeal and NSPCC Wales are appealing to households in the Vale to continue to donate clothes to Clothes Aid collections, in the face of an alarming drop in the number of donations in the past month.

In February alone, the appeal saw a 70 per cent drop in donations through Clothes Aid collection services.

Suzanne Mainwaring, director of The Noah's Ark Appeal, blames the drop on the rising number of bogus collections,

fake charity collection bags and clothing collection thefts in the area, deterring local households from continuing to give to local charities.

The Noah's Ark Appeal, the fundraising arm of the Children's Hospital Wales in Cardiff, relies on income generated from sales of clothing collections to sustain the invaluable care services it provides to children in the area.

Suzanne Mainwaring said: "The money raised from clothing collections run for us by Clothes Aid is invaluable to our vital work."

"Every year, Clothes Aid aims to raise £100,000 for The Noah's Ark Appeal, to support

the world-class care and services for patients at the Children's Hospital for Wales.

"We absolutely depend on the public to donate their unwanted clothes. That's why we're calling on our supporters to keep on giving with care, to enable us to support sick children and their affected families."

Clothing collections are run across the Vale on behalf of local charities The Noah's Ark Appeal and NSPCC Wales by their business partner Clothes Aid.

Donated clothes and accessories are cleaned and exported to nearby

countries where they are sold in shops and boutiques to raise money for The Noah's Ark Appeal and NSPCC Wales.

Bogus charity collections cost genuine charities up to £12 million a year.

The Noah's Ark Appeal and NSPCC Wales are urging households to continue to give but to make their donation count by following these simple steps:

- Look out for the Clothes Aid collection bag on your doorstep between now and April 18

- Check your clothing donation is picked up by a registered, uni-

formed Clothes Aid Collector in a Clothes Aid Van. Always ask to see their ID if you are not sure.

- If you suspect a bogus collector or a theft, call the collection protection helpline on 0207 288 8535.

Try to note down a description of the individual or group, the time and place of the incident, and any other relevant details to share with the helpline staff.

- Look for the Give with Confidence tick of approval from the Fundraising Standards Board on leaflets and bags.



Tracy Whitfield, Chris Franks AM, Phillipa Storey, Rhian Thomas.

## AM's visit highlights services for disabled people in the Vale

**SOUTH** Wales Central AM Chris Franks visited a Vale centre run by disability charity Scope, to highlight services available for disabled people.

Mr Franks said: "I found the work of the staff and volunteers of Scope was very impressive. There was a caring but professional atmosphere at the centre."

"It is important that even during times of economic problems we ensure that services to the vulnera-

ble are adequately safeguarded."

Rhian Thomas, of Sully Skills Development Centre run by disability charity Scope, said: "We are delighted that Mr Franks came to visit disabled constituents in Sully."

"Many of the decisions taken by politicians in the National Assembly can greatly affect the services that disabled people receive and therefore the work we do at Scope Cymru."

### LIFT MEETING

**LIFT (Life Is For Today)** is a self-help group for those affected by breast cancer, which has been established for about six years.

The next LIFT group meeting will be in Cowbridge on Wednesday, March 30 between 10am and 1pm, with relaxation therapies including reflexology, Reiki and Indian head massage.

New members welcome. Contact Anne on 01446 772843, or Jan on 01446 774575 for information.

### VALEWAYS WALKS

Starting from Southerndown beach car park at 2pm on Sunday, 27 March, from Lodge to Gardens.

Valeways walks last for 60-90 minutes, except for extended walks which last for up to two hours.

## Month of celebration for 'RE' in the Vale

**A MONTH-LONG celebration of religious education (RE) in Wales was launched at Stanwell School, Penarth.**

'Celebrating RE' - the national RE festival for England and Wales, has been taking place throughout March. The

festival's aim is to celebrate the value and importance of RE in schools.

Pupils from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg gave a drama presentation, which they had written themselves. Muslim pupils from St Cyres School recited from the Qur'an and the school's gospel choir also per-

formed.

The winners of a year-7 competition for Stanwell pupils, to find the best 'Holy Week rap', performed to loud cheers and applause.

Primary school children from Evenlode and Albert Road schools in Penarth also sang for the audience.

The main speaker at the conference, the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, was joined by representatives of other faiths in Wales - Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist and Baha'i.

Dr Morgan said RE helped promote tolerance and understanding in today's world: "The current generation of young people in our schools will immerse themselves in a world where boundaries of nationality and culture are breaking down."

"Surely we have a duty to prepare them for that experience and to have a confident understanding of why their friend, work colleague, team mate or partner places such an emphasis on their faith."

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "We're delighted that the Vale was chosen for the Welsh launch of the 'Celebrating RE' month."

## High cost of vandalism at Vale public toilets

by PHILIP IRWIN

**VANDALS** have done so much damage to public toilets in the Vale that there is a possibility that some may have to be closed.

That was the stark warning from a senior council officer after adding up the cost of the latest spate of attacks.

The Vale Council has reported that in the last four months, thousands of pounds of damage has been done to public conveniences - and matters are now being investigated by the police.

Facilities at Porthkerry Country Park; Harbour Road, Barry Island; Cowbridge Town Hall; Poundfield Shopping Centre, Llantwit Major and, most recently, the car park facilities at Cliff Parade, Penarth, were affected - with thousands of pounds worth of damage caused at some facilities and hundreds at others.

The operational manager for waste management and cleansing, Clifford Parish, said: "We are appalled that these mindless actions have

caused such damage, expense and inconvenience to our residents and tax payers.

"While repair work was carried out facilities had to temporarily close. Regrettably, due to funding, the baby changing unit in the male toilet at Llantwit Major cannot be replaced."

"If this selfish defacement persists, I fear it is only a matter of time before some public facilities will have to close."

"While this would be a last resort our residents and visitors have to realise that this is a distinct possibility. We would urge the public to be vigilant and report any crimes tak-

ing place to the police. "A description, name or a registration number could lead to a successful prosecution."

During February and March, two public facilities were specifically targeted for their copper piping.

To get to it, criminals smashed three doors, ripped off taps, smashed cisterns and caused water damage that resulted in thousands of pounds worth of damage - all for an amount of copper that would result in a few pounds pay off.

The council is now urging the public to report any suspicious activity to South Wales Police immediately. Environmental crime also includes spoiling public toilets with graffiti.

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## Quiz and chips!

**MORE** than 90 people of all ages attended a quiz with fish and chip supper, organised by All Saints Church, Penarth, on March 11.

Participants grappled with rounds including sport, books and Christmas No 1 singles!

More than £600 was raised towards the planned conversion work at All Saints which will provide meeting rooms, kitchen, toilets and a gallery floor, opening up the church building to a range of uses by both church members and the wider community.

Work is planned to start on May 9. Special thanks to the Cornerswell Road fish and chip shop, Arth Wines and Foxy's for supporting this event.

MG

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# Standing up for families, communities, and local business as Budget cuts bite

**E**VEN before the Chancellor rose to his feet yesterday (Wednesday) to give his Budget statement, we knew what changes would be coming through from his June 2010 budget and the October Spending Review, which dealt us a difficult financial settlement in Wales for the next three years.

Arguably, the hit on household income levels is having as great an impact on economic recovery as well as on the financial and social circumstances of families, particularly those who are in low income households.

The reality is that decisions the Chancellor made last year that are now being implemented, amount to a total reduction in household income of an average of almost £700 per year per household in Wales.

The adverse impact on household income in Wales is expected to reduce consumer spending, negatively impacting on Welsh businesses. It must be remembered that as incomes are lower in Wales, this adverse impact is expected to hit households harder than the average across

the UK. The VAT increase is already impacting on low incomes in particular – not good for families or good for business in Wales, and the economy was shrinking before the January VAT increase.

The changes announced last June and October by the UK Government included cuts to the UK benefit system amounting to £18 billion by 2014-15. The independent Institute of Fiscal Studies has found these changes to be regressive, showing that families with children will be the biggest losers.

The IFS forecast that child poverty across the UK will increase as a result of these changes which are now being implemented.

Wales has a higher proportion of the population that receives welfare benefits than across the UK as a whole. Cuts in benefits will be felt with greater force in Wales.

In addition, as average incomes are lower in Wales than in the UK, these benefit cuts will have a greater impact on poorer people in Wales than across the UK as a whole and within Wales, the impact will be concentrated on disadvantaged groups and communities.

To give a practical

example, from this April, changes to Housing Benefit (Local Housing Allowance) will result in the vast majority of claimants in Wales losing £9 per week.

Shelter says that this will lead to poverty and homelessness and the costs of homelessness are considerable for local authorities.

If we look at the main reason for homelessness last year, financial problems were the major factor – rent arrears, housing benefit problems and mortgage arrears.

In the Vale, the greater majority of homeless people are women and vulnerable young people.

For young people, youth unemployment is rising to nearly the million mark across the UK.

Before the Budget on Wednesday, I said I would like the Chancellor to think again about cuts to public spending and benefits which are too rapid and too deep.

But I also said that he needs to act now with a clear plan for growth and jobs, including capital investment which is vital to the construction industry and the wider economy to prevent a slide back into recession.

Yet the UK Government has cut our

capital funding by 40 per cent over the next three years with no sign of reversal from this budget.

On Wednesday, I met with partners in the construction industry at a Constructing Excellence Wales event, where we discussed the path that we are taking in Wales – so different from that in England, maintaining investment in schools, hospitals and transport by carefully managing our finances, resulting in the extra £105m

announced last week as part of a £1.3bn capital programme for Wales.

Last week, I also met people who told me the free bus pass was their only means of transport because they couldn't afford to fill their tanks with petrol.

I also met people who said the free prescriptions and free breakfasts for primary school children were helping them survive as they face a pay freeze, higher prices, higher taxes and job losses.

I met with appren-

tices, who saw a future with funding from WAG and I met with young people who were relieved they lived in Wales because they could contemplate university without the intolerable burden of ever-increasing debt as a result of higher fees.

Last week, I met with people who see some hope for the regeneration of Barry as a result of the £9m the Welsh Assembly Government has allocated over the next three years.

In the rural Vale, I met with people who welcome the Rural Development Plan funding from the Assembly Government to back the projects and grant schemes administered by Creative Rural Communities.

*We must stand up for our families, communities and businesses here in the Vale and in Wales, to shield our poorest families and communities, support our young people and help our businesses survive and prosper.*

## ASSEMBLY NOTES



**by Vale AM Jane Hutt**  
(Assembly Minister for Business and Budget)

## Local PACT meetings

**GIBBONSDOWN PACT**, Community Centre, March 29, at 7pm.  
**Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close**, March 25, at 6pm.  
**DYFAN PACT**, Barry Comprehensive School on March 29, at 6pm.  
**BARUC PACT**, St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Barry Comprehensive School, March 29, at 7.15pm.  
**CASTLELAND PACT**, Docks Offices, April 4, at 7pm.  
**WENVOE PACT**, Wenvoe Community Centre, March 28, at 7pm.  
**RHOOSE PACT**, Celtic Way (mal).

**ST BRIDES PACT**, St Brides Major Church Hall, April 4, at 6pm.

**YSTRADOWEN** Coffee & Chat, White Lion Public House, April 5, at 11.30am.

**STANWELL PACT**, Stanwell Comprehensive School, March 25, at 7pm.

**SULLY PACT**, Sully Bowls Club, March 31, at 7pm (please note the change of venue and time from normal).

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## PUPILS HELP OUT MARIE CURIE



**PUPILS** from year-1 at High Street Primary school, Barry, raised an amazing £123 for Marie Curie Cancer Care by taking part in the 'Mini Pots of Care' project.

Each child grew a daffodil from a bulb and donated money to take it home. The children also hosted their own Daffodil Day tea party to raise even more money.

The project was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the school is thrilled to have raised so much money for a very worthy cause.

On Friday, the class followed up with even more fundraising by dressing up as monsters for Comic Relief.



ABOVE: The pupils proudly show off their daffodils for Marie Curie.

## School speakers hit the heights!



**THE** Ysgol Bro Morgannwg Crickhowell.

The school was delighted that Robin won the prize for best proposer.

A magnificent result for these young people, promoting bilingualism at its best. MT

## Pupils go to great lengths for breast cancer charity



**CHILDREN** and teachers at St David's Church in Wales Primary School, Colwinston, recently took part in a sponsored swim - to raise funds to support the new breast cancer unit, based at Llandough hospital.

They had to swim as many lengths or widths of a swimming pool as they could in one hour.

Mrs Rosser, who coordinated the sponsorship effort, said: "At Mrs Rosser, who coordinated the sponsorship effort, said: "At recently took part in a sponsored swim - to raise funds to support the new breast cancer unit, based at Llandough hospital. dren, and teachers alike, to be cause, in a fun and enjoyable way."

They had to swim as many lengths or widths of a swimming pool as they could in one hour.

cause, in a fun and enjoyable way."

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is  
Patricia Bevan-Morgan  
(01656) 880418

ing afternoon, with people coming from all over the Vale. At the same time, a plaque was unveiled on the Quay at Haverfordwest to commemorate the Frolic, which sailed from there on that fateful night.

There were no survivors and bodies are buried throughout the coastal area of the Bristol Channel. I did some research of my own and found one to be buried in the churchyard of St Bridget's, St Brides Major. James Lloyd, late butler of R L Ackland of Boulston in the county of Pembroke was one of the unfortunate passengers who perished on that night.

ORRA celebrated two birthdays at their last meeting on Thursday, March 18: Miriam (90) and Joy (81). 'Happy birthday' was sung to them. Members also enjoyed a film by Geoff and Rhianan of their holiday cruise.

EILEEN MATHEWS celebrated her 'bus pass' birthday with family and friends at the Fox and Hounds on March 18, to make it a three-day event, she was also mentioned on a BBC programme by Owen Money on Saturday.

Eileen hasn't been well of late, but is now making good progress. She requested any

birthday gifts should be made to the Stroke Association Tuesday Club, Bridgend, who have helped her through this troublesome time. We wish her well.

THE local produce market on Saturday was again a success with yet another new stall, Welsh coffee. The next market will be held on Saturday, April 16.

**DIARY DATES:**

Grand boot sale and produce market on Saturday, May 21 (10am - 2pm). Gates open for sellers 9am, to be held in the field next to the Vicarage (CPD's field). For information, phone 01656 880385, or email events@floatec.co.uk.

Serenade at Slade, Southerndown - opera gala in the garden, Saturday June 18. Gates open 5.30pm.

Performance starts 7pm. Further information on 01656 880048.

National Gardens Scheme open for charity - Slade, Southerndown. Admission £3, children free. Saturday and Sunday 16-17 April, 11am-5pm.

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# Out and About with The GEM

## The day Merlin and Arthur met a certain Merlin and Arthur!

**BARRY** Island theatre group T4K have been busy rehearsing for their new show, the hilarious musical 'What a Knight', set in Camelot.

T4K's Merlin and Arthur recently visited Amelia Trust Farm and met their new donkeys, who as if by magic, were also called Merlin and Arthur!

Dedicated volunteers organised various fundraising events to buy the donkeys and hope to train them to give children rides. The group also aim to raise

FROM ONE MERLIN TO ANOTHER..!



enough funds to buy a foal.

A spokeswoman reported: "Hannah (King Arthur) and Sarah (Merlin the magician) had great fun getting to know the donkeys, but the four-legged Merlin and Arthur seemed a little dazzled by their namesakes costumes."

T4K will be perform-

ing 'What a Knight' at Barry Island Community Centre at 7.30pm on April 1-2. There is also a matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from A & A Dancewear, Park Crescent Barry or on the door. Merlin and Arthur the donkeys can be seen at Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, Barry.

## BEACH CLEAN

**FRIENDS** of Barry Beaches will meet for their March beach clean at Porthkerry beach on Sunday, March 27 at 3pm (by the café).

The February beach clean at Jackson's Bay was a great success, with six bags of recycling and five bags of rubbish being collected.

## Art in Penarth

**APRIL** being the garden season, the Washington Gallery at Penarth is showing a collection of art and crafts, all related to the outdoors.

Dibbers and plants, pots and tealights, ceramic tables, photographs and garden tableaux fused in glass all have been moved into the upper gallery for one month, beginning on April 1.

In the lower gallery will be artist Jane Maddox, with her spectacular display of nature-inspired paper displays.

This includes a rare butterfly species installation along the back wall.

## Children's books winners

**THE winners** of our recent competition were Ieuan Brown, Cowbridge; Sarah John, Cefn Glas; Jon Foyle, Maendy, and Jacqui Evans, Talbot Green - congratulations to you all, and look out for more great GEM competitions!

## 'JOIN THE MACMILLAN CENTENARY CHALLENGE'

**MACMILLAN Cancer Support** which is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, has joined forces with The GEM to urge local companies to help raise funds during centenary year - by taking part in a Centenary Challenge.

Sue Pickin, fundraising manager, said: "It's a chance for businesses to help Macmillan build on all that we have been able to achieve so far. "There are 120,000 people living with cancer in Wales, and this figure is set to double by 2030.

"Macmillan aims to be there for patients and their families and carers throughout their cancer experience, helping to make life easier through medical, emotional, financial and practical support, but we cannot do this on their own."

The charity is challenging 100 businesses in the area to come forward and each pledge to raise £1,000 for Macmillan during 2011. Whether it's through staff taking part in events, encouraging support from customers or making a donation, there are many ways to get involved.

"Together, you and another 99 companies could raise £100,000 which could fund a Macmillan nurse for two years. Your company will get real business benefits (and have fun!) by taking part, engaging with the community and your staff, while at the same time helping to make a real difference to the lives of local people affected by cancer," Sue explained.

To sign up and to receive a fundraising pack, please contact Sue Pickin on 01656 867966 or email spickin@macmillan.org.uk.

## Pub quiz helps out charities!



**FOR the past two years, the Blacksmiths Arms at Llanmaes has been the venue for a Wednesday evening quiz night and the £1.50 entry charge raises approximately £1,500 each year, all of which is donated to local charities.**

Last year, 'World at Play' received the £1,500 to help fund a third expedition to the orphanages of eastern Europe, leaving south Wales this June.

Pictured with Peter Emery (a Llanmaes resident and occasional quizmaster) is Steve Thomas, who represented and collected £300 last week for the local-based charity ValePlus.

Steve explained to those taking part in last Wednesday's quiz that the donation will assist in the work of ValePlus, which supports adults within our community with learning difficulties.

## Charity walk for brain tumour foundation

**THE Ed Evans Foundation** is asking supporters to make time for a charity walk on Sunday, May 1.

The charity, set up in memory of Ed Evans, works to raise awareness of the plight of brain tumour patients, their families and friends.

Ed was brought up in Marcross and first experienced symptoms of a brain tumour in 2001. At the time he was training to be a diver with the

Royal Navy.

The tumour proved to be inoperable, and Ed embarked on a long series of treatments.

His experiences prompted him to set up the foundation in 2006, primarily to thank the hospital staff who had treated him during courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Sadly, Ed lost his battle a year after setting up the foundation, but friends and family continue its work to this day.

This is the fourth year that the foundation has organised a charity walk, and supporters have the choice of opting for a long or short walk.

Both walks start from the Horseshoe Inn, Marcross, and the long walk leaves at 10am, and the short at 11am.

An entry form and further information is available from [www.edevansfoundation.co.uk](http://www.edevansfoundation.co.uk) or by telephone from 01656 890217 or 01656 890309.

## Mike gets top artist accolade from society

**THE Cowbridge Art Society annual spring competition for the Keith Jones Trophy** took place on Thursday and the subject this year was 'shadows'.

There were many entries and the standard was high. They were judged by Lloyd Rowe, who eventually chose a painting by Mike Davies.

The photograph shows Lloyd Rowe, Mike Davies and Keith James, who presented the trophy.



## Charity ball

**A GLAMOROUS masked ball is to be held at Dyffryn Gardens to raise funds for the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor's charities.**

The evening will also include a charity auction, and the mayor, Coun Colin Osborne, has chosen East Vale Community Transport, Ashgrove School in Penarth and Llandough School Association, as the mayoral charities for his year of office.

The Mayor's Ball will take place on Saturday, April 9; tickets cost £30 each, including a four-course dinner and dancing until midnight to the Bridgend Big Band.

For more details, contact the Mayor's office on 01446 709301 for further information.

## Walk a mile in her shoes!

**MEN in Barry and the Vale are being encouraged to take part in a charity event named 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' organised in support of Atal-y-Fro, formerly Vale of Glamorgan Women's Aid.**

The event is taking place on March 26 at 12 noon - 3pm, starting in King Square on Holton Road, Barry, with the walk itself taking place between 1pm and 1.30pm.

Participants will walk a mile wearing women's shoes, but they are also encouraged to fully dress in female clothing! Women are also invited to join the walk or to support male participants.

This year's event is the first such walk in Wales and aims to raise funds to

continue offering support to women and families in need.

On March 26, an information stall will be set up from 12 noon until 3pm. The charity will provide a limited amount of shoes available on the day (for a £5 donation) but individuals taking part are encouraged to bring their own foot wear.

Entry forms are available from Atal-y-Fro on [info@atalyfro.org](mailto:info@atalyfro.org) or 01446 744755. Entries on the day are also possible.

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# June curtain-raising ceremony will welcome the Eisteddfod to the Vale

**MORE details have been released about the scale of the project involved in bringing the National Eisteddfod to the Vale in 2012.**

These emerged at last week's meeting of the Vale Council cabinet. The Eisteddfod will be hosted in the Vale between August 4 and August 11.

The report considered by the cabinet revealed that the site in Llandow will cover an area of 120 acres, and is in the ownership of a number of landowners.

The cost of staging the Eisteddfod is estimated at £3.6m of which 25 per cent is contributed by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

The site would accommodate the Maes, as well as car parking, a caravan site, camping and the Youth Maes.

The report says that the event is seen as a major opportunity for the council, and as a result a working party has been established to liaise with Eisteddfod organisers in making arrangements.

It will also look at ways of raising the profile of the area.

One event that will be a 'curtain raiser' is a 'Proclamation Ceremony' which will be held on June 25 this year in either Cowbridge or Barry.

This ceremony will "formally announce" the intention to hold the Eisteddfod at Llandow in 2012 and will involve a public procession, as well as a formal event centred on an area around specially constructed Gorsedd Stones.

The report says that discussions are taking place about a suitable location but the event itself will be organised by the Eisteddfod.

A civic procession may also be involved. When it comes to 2012, the Council will be closely involved in developing a transport and access strategy for the site.

The report says that meetings have already been held but an "action plan" needs to be agreed in order to ensure safe arrangements for traffic and pedestrians during the Eisteddfod – and during the preparatory works that are required.

This might well involve Traffic Orders, road closures, identification of pedestrian routes and shuttle buses to the main towns and railway stations. Regional access issues will also be addressed.

The report says that the majority of the work to be carried out by the Vale Council will be within existing budgets and responsibilities. At some stage, however, the corporate cost of the council's activities will need to be identified.

The bulk of costs is met by the Eisteddfod themselves, and a contribution is made via the WLGA as the local authority contribution towards organising Eisteddfods at specific locations every year.

**PROCLAMATION**  
*Shortly before The GEM went to press, the National Eisteddfod committee issued a statement saying that the proclamation ceremony would take place in Barry on June 25, in the Memorial Gardens.*

A spokeswoman said: "According to tradition the intention to stage an Eisteddfod must be announced at least one year and a day before the actual Eisteddfod."

"The Gorsedd of the Bards, along with representatives from local schools, institutions and societies, will march through the town centre on their way to the proclamation ceremony, which will be held at the Memorial Gardens in Barry."

She continued: "The Vale of Glamorgan's link with the Gorsedd of the Bards is, of course, a strong one."

"The Gorsedd of Bards is an association whose members consists of poets, writers, musicians, artists and individuals who have made a distinguished contribution to the Welsh nation."

"It also includes many well known figures in Welsh life, such as actors Ioan Gruffydd and Mathew Rhys, rugby players Gareth Edwards and Ieuan Evans, cricketer Robert Croft, Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, opera star Bryn Terfel and broadcaster Angharad Mair, to name only a few."

"The Gorsedd members are known as Druids, although it must be stressed that there is no connection between the association and druidism as a religion."

"The Gorsedd of the Bards was the creative invention of Iolo Morganwg, raised in Flemingstone in the Vale, one of Wales' most famous and eccentric scholars. He felt that it should be made known that the Welsh were the direct descendants of Celtic culture and heritage."

"Iolo Morganwg went as far as to link the Welsh with the ancient druids, who were the guardians of the Celtic civilisations before the Romans and the Saxons came to Britain. He was even known to have forged documents in a bid to substantiate his claims."

A prominent part will be played by girls from numerous Vale schools when they perform the Flower Dance for the first time.

Following an open

## REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

audition, 32 girls aged 8 – 10 have now been chosen from schools all across the Vale to perform the dance, and will soon start rehearsals under the supervision of

Anne Hughes and Rhian James who will tutor the dance.

During the ceremony, the first copy of the 'List of Competitions' will be presented to the

Archdruid T James Jones by the chair of the local executive committee, Dylan Jones, and once the list has been presented, its contents is made public, and the work of preparing for the competitions can start.

The spokeswoman said: "It's a colourful and dignified way of showcasing the Eisteddfod and increasing awareness about what will take place in the Vale in 500 days time."

Anyone wishing to get

involved with preparations for the 2012 National Eisteddfod should contact the office on 0845 4090 300 or by email on gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk. For more information go to www.eisteddfod.org.uk

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# MOTHER'S DAY

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## FINDING THAT GIFT YOUR MOTHER WILL REMEMBER FOR YEARS TO COME!

**T**HE array of gifts on offer for Mother's Day is greater than ever, so families should have no problem in finding something to delight their mother this April.

Of course, on Sunday, April 3 it is important that, if possible, family members visit their mum with a card and box of chocolates, and maybe follow that up with a Sunday lunch booked in one of the numerous pubs and restaurants in the Vale and Bridgend areas.

But nowadays the gift market has expanded, offering a huge range of gifts with that little bit extra in terms of sentiment, interest or excitement.

One new market, which has been partly generated by the flexibility of browsing on-line, is in finding a gift that is made individual to the person you love.

Personalised presents ensure you can have a particular set of words engraved or carved on the gift. There are staple 'personalisations' such as on stationery or on a card, but the choice is far wider than that.

Personalised gifts can include pieces of jewellery such as necklaces and lockets, picture frames which could include a photograph with a

sentimental flavour, crystal glasses, compact mirrors, champagne – even wooden cheeseboards in a heart-shape! – the list goes on and on.

Another popular surprise gift is a day out – a visit to the theatre, a pampering session at a health spa, a mini cruise on the River Severn or the Thames, or perhaps a National Trust day out at one of Britain's great castles or stately homes.

A flight from a local airfield taking in the Vale of Glamorgan's Heritage Coast and the Bristol Channel can provide an unforgettable day out.

Mini breaks over a weekend to west Wales, the west country, the Cotswolds are within easy striking distance of the Vale and Bridgend.

For those who want to combine a break with sight-seeing there are always travel companies that provide weekend packages to London, Paris or Dublin.

So there is no excuse! With a little thought, and a visit to a travel agent or a few moments browsing on-line, you could find the gift that your mother will remember for years to come.



The traditional flowers and chocolates – but what else is there on the market?

## Gifts for keen gardener on Mother's Day

by HANNAH STEPHENSON

**FLORISTS** may be busy in the run-up to Mother's Day on Sunday, April 3, but with a little forethought you can buy your mum a present which will last much longer than a bouquet of flowers.

Garden centres, nurseries and online retailers are awash with Mother's Day

gifts, from soft-handled secateurs to pretty kneeling cushions, pampering hand creams, muscle-relaxing bath salts, specialist gloves plus a host of ornaments to remind her of you.

Even those on the tightest budget can bag a gift which will give pleasure for years to come. Your local area will have stores where you can pick up a shrub or fruit bush for just a pound or two, ranging from roses and escallonnias to blueberries and potentillas. There's still time to sow some seeds, but if you want to give them as a gift, why not go for a range of beautifully packaged seeds including chilli, spring onion, basil, chives, mint, carrots and others, which come in lovely packets.

The seeds can all be grown in window boxes, pots or large containers on the smallest of patios or roof terraces.

Keen vegetable growers may want to extend their repertoire to more unusual veg, so why not buy your mother something she hasn't grown before, such as mushrooms?

You can buy a white button mushroom kit, which will also be easy to gift wrap, which has everything you need to grow mushrooms and could boost confidence to grow other, more difficult veg.

And finally, a well selected garden ornament can give years of pleasure – a search on-line or a visit to your local garden centre will provide a good selection.

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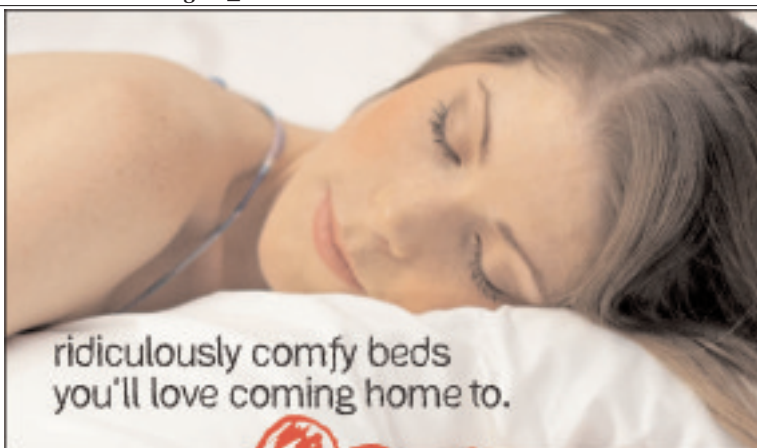
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Mr Cairns offered to take part in the challenge, and was slotted in for an early morning run on the treadmill on a cold December Monday



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# Say **Y**LEiSure Park to a fabulous time!



## Fontygary Leisure Park welcomes the public to its 21st century facilities

**F**ONTYGARY Leisure Park is a hidden gem – a refurbished 21st century entertainment and fitness complex open to the public all year round.

It is a whole new world once people turn off Fontygary Road in Rhose and drive through the archway into the park.

For Fontygary Leisure Park manager,

Jennie Flanigan, it is a source of amusement that Vale people still ask her whether they can use the wide range of facilities and attend the family events held weekly. "I tell them we are

open to the public – everyone is welcome to come! They think they have to be a member, but they don't."

The park comprises a leisure complex with state-of-the-art facilities, and holiday homes – all complete with stunning views across the Bristol Channel.

The leisure and fitness facilities include a cardiovascular room complete with rowers, bikes and cross trainers, a weights room, a jacuzzi, a sauna and an impressive pool with fun equipment like slides and wobbles for the children.

Some people are intimidated by the idea of going to 'health and fitness' clubs and committing themselves to year-long memberships, but Jennie emphasised that at Fontygary everything is very relaxed.

"We have people aged from 16-85 who use the facilities."

"People don't have contracts to sign and can use them daily or monthly."

"Tying people in during the present climate is not fair and we aim to



The newly-refurbished bar.

be flexible and affordable – there are even student rates to help those who may be back in the area for a short period like a couple of months.

"The pool is open to the public seven days a week."

The leisure park involvement in the community has extended to aiding the recovery of injured soldiers and supporting Help for Heroes, a cause close to the heart of leisure park owner Tim McIlveen, who served in the army.

Jennie explained: "We have physio sessions in the pool for recuperating soldiers such as paratroopers back from Afghanistan."

"There were problems with the ceiling of the

pool at St Athan and we were pleased to help them out with a special deal."

Tim had the original idea for the 'Expedition to Helmand', in which St Mary Church villagers and other local volunteers combined to raise almost £30,000 for Help for Heroes.

The volunteers, including staff from the leisure park, walked to 'Helmand' on treadmills arranged by Tim.

Fontygary Leisure Park has been a part of the Vale community for more than 50 years and has a dedicated staff of 40 people to look after visitors.

But people should also be aware of the family events going on every week. Again people don't have to be members.

There's a family friendly bar with karaoke on Friday and Saturday evenings; a quiet bar downstairs where people can enjoy a drink and watch big sporting events on wide screen TV; and a cabaret lounge upstairs with Friday night bingo and

*LEFT: There is plenty of fun for all the family at Fontygary!*

Saturday night shows with a compere, disco and comedian.

There are also restaurants on site like the Raj Kinara and the China Bay Restaurant.

For those interested in buying a holiday home, staff in the sales office can provide all the necessary details, and holi-

day lets can be purchased in reception area.

*So the message is clear: if you want somewhere to go and relax with the family, or get fit this year, Fontygary Leisure Park should be at the top of your list!*

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# LEADER SAYS THAT PAY LEVELS ARE INDEPENDENTLY REVIEWED

## TWO LOCAL COUNCILS PAY OUT £1.5M TO 12 SENIOR OFFICERS

**THE salaries and employment packages of just 12 officers working for Bridgend and Vale borough councils cost the taxpayers of those two areas a total of more than £1.5m in the financial year 2009-10.**

Each council employs six people whose packages exceed £100,000. These include pension contributions from the councils as employers and also, in Bridgend's case, benefits in kind.

The total bill for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) for employing the six chief officers comes to £784,000, while in the Vale Council, the amount for the six is £818,000.

The figures, which have been compiled by the Taxpayers' Alliance from the council's own annual accounts, show that out of all the local authorities in Wales, Bridgend and the Vale are only behind Cardiff, which employs 15 people on that pay scale, and two other councils – Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen, which employ seven.

Bridgend also had seven for part of the financial year 2009-10, for which these figures

prelate, but axed the Director of Corporate Services post in February 2010.

Bridgend and the Vale are on a par with Blaenau Gwent, Carmarthenshire, Flintshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, which all have six officers whose remuneration packages exceed £100,000.

But they are well ahead of many other councils which employ fewer on those pay scales. Ceredigion has only one while Anglesey, Conwy and Merthyr Tydfil have two and Powys has three. The rest have either four or five.

At Bridgend, two of the chief officers are paid salaries of £99,646 – which is below the threshold used by government and others to assess levels of chief officers' salaries being paid.

But in both cases, benefits in kind amounting to over £6,000 take their remuneration over that threshold.

Chief executive Jo Farrar is the top earner at the authority with a total package of £170,310. Her actual salary is £131,251 but there are further benefits in kind of £11,101 and pension contributions of £27,529. Her package decreased by 0.3 per cent over the

previous year with a drop in actual cash of £500.

Her opposite number at the Vale Council – John Maitland Evans – took a 10 per cent cut over this period, amounting to £20,000.

His package in 2008-09 was £199,181 but this fell to £179,126 for 2009-10 – the latest year for which these figures are available.

His package for the year is broken down as £146,417 salary and £31,480 pension. There are no benefits in kind.

The highest paid director in Bridgend is Hilary Anthony, who runs the Children's Directorate. Her package was worth £130,027 in 2009-10, made up of salary of £104,068, benefits in kind of £3,740 and pension of £21,854.

Louise Fradd, who is corporate director of Communities has a package worth £127,875, up 2.4 per cent on the previous year.

Her salary is £99,646 with benefits in kind of another £7,037 and pension contributions a further £20,926.

Abigail Harris, who

### REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

is director of Well Being, has a package worth £126,773.

Her salary was £99,646 with a further £6,182 in benefits in kind and £20,926 in pension contributions.

Two assistant chief executives also have packages in excess of £100,000.

Andrew Jolley, who is assistant chief executive for legal and regulatory, has a package of £116,139. This is made up of a salary of £88,458 with benefits in kind of £8,853 and pension contributions of £18,576.

Dave MacGregor, who is assistant chief executive for corporate development, had a 2.3 per cent increase, taking his package to £112,926. His salary was £86,582 with benefits in kind of £7,861 and pension contributions of £18,182.

In the Vale, most of the chief officers have packages of £129,000 plus.

Peter Evans, director of legal, public protection and housing, gets a salary of £105,280 with

package worth £123,850 – made up of salary of £101,647 and pensions contributions of £21,854.

All of these figures relate to the year 2009-10. The new figures for the financial year 2010-11, which ends at the beginning of April, are not yet available.

The GEM asked both councils to comment on their chief officers' remuneration packages.

Vale Council leader Gordon Kemp said that chief officers' salaries were reviewed by independent employment specialists in 2004.

He went on: "In the council's budget for 2010-11, we committed to reducing the salary bill for our senior managers by more than £500,000 in the next two years.

"Phase one has been implemented and this

saw the loss of seven senior manager posts at head of service and operational manager levels, a percentage cut that far exceeds the proportionate cut across the rest of the council's workforce."

He said that no chief officer received a national pay award in 2009-10 or subsequently. The pay freeze will continue for some time.

He added: "Councils are the most transparent organisations. Not all public bodies publish senior management salaries to the same extent as us.

"There needs to be a more even-handed way of handling senior salary issues across the public sector as a whole, which I readily accept should be in the public domain and subject to scrutiny."

A BCBC spokesman

had this to say:

"Bridgend County Borough Council features one of the smallest corporate management teams in Wales.

"We have three senior officers on a salary range of up to £104,000 and one on a salary range of up to £131,000.

"It is important to remember the size and scope of the council.

The authority is the largest employer in the area and provides vital services that have an effect on the lives of every resident.

"As such, the council has to compete with private business in attracting the best candidates who can undertake the responsibilities required by senior roles and ensure that local communities receive high quality services."

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## Vale U3A group entertained by talk on islands

**THE meeting of the Barry and Vale U3A in the Phillip John Room at Barry Central Library on March 7 was entertained by Mr G Beaudette, who gave an illustrated talk about the islands of the Bristol Channel.**

He presented a very detailed history of the islands, interspersed with many fascinating personal anecdotes. Although familiar with the islands, many members left the meeting with an enhanced knowledge of their role in history.

The next meeting is a short walk, in conjunction with Valeways, meeting at the Sully Church. Contact Mr J Waud (01446-413328) for details.

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## Welsh Assembly passes Stuart's Campaign law

**AFTER nine years, Jones told The GEM: "It has been nine years since the accident, so this legislation has taken a long time – and there is still going to be a three-year period before it becomes mandatory in 2014.**

"I do think that all the local authorities in Wales knew it was coming, so they could have made it part of their requirements already."

He added: "We do welcome the decision, but there are still other issues on school bus safety – such as supervision – to be tackled."

Vale AM Jane Hutt, who is a long term supporter of Stuart's Campaign, said: "The new school transport legislation in the National Assembly represents a step change for pupil safety on buses."

Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks said: "Plaid welcomes this new law, which will improve safety on our school buses.

"It is also a tribute to the hard work of Stuart's campaign because, thanks to their efforts, it has ensured that children will be better protected when they travel to and from school."

David Cunningham

# SPRING is here



## As the clocks go forward, the feel good factor returns!

**T**HAT blessed time of year is almost upon us – when the clocks jump forward an hour, and we can say goodbye to the long, dark days of winter!

With lighter evenings and more sunshine, there's a feel-good factor that makes people want to make the most of the spring and summer months.

The clocks go forward on Sunday, March 27, and herald a time when people are enthusiastic to see tasks completed around the house and garden.

The official arrival of summertime is actually at 1am on March 27, so from next week the lighter evenings are here – make sure you make the most of them!

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"WHO CARES WINS"

## Help for those household spring improvements

**A**T this time of the year, householders feel the urge to spring clean – but if you are a full time worker time is of the essence.

Why not call in a domestic cleaning company to do your spring clean and give yourself time to relax!

Sometimes there are jobs around the house that a person might not be able to do because they don't have the necessary knowledge, are elderly, have a disability or simply don't have the time.

In these circumstances, remember there are local handymen who can provide the help you need.

The spring season is a popular time to build a

conservatory because it can be ready in time for summer in the same year. The householder gets a light bright space where, if the sun shines, even if it is windy outside, it remains nice and warm with views of the garden.

And then when winter comes, it serves as an extra room away from the noise of the television and lounge.

Spring is also a prime time for freshening up house interiors and decorating. Perhaps you have skirting boards that look drab or a door frame that needs a fresh coat of paint.

Remember that with services to your door someone who can do these tasks is just a telephone call away!

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**N**OW that people are emerging from the hibernation of one of the coldest winters on record, they can see all the jobs that need to be done round the garden.

Why not plan a new patio area or update old fencing? Have you thought of having a decking area? Perhaps you have thought of having a stone built barbecue!

Now is the time to have a check round your property and see what needs to be repaired or improved.

It is time to plan ahead and make your garden look special for the summer.

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## Litter-free? Not any more..!

**W**ITH reference to David T Jones's letter in last week's GEM about the litter-free lanes around the Vale, I have to agree that the litter picking teams had done a very good job of removing the litter from along the road verges around Llantwit Major.

So I was very dismayed today, when driving between Llantwit and Cowbridge, to see a huge amount of paper strewn all along the verge just past the DG Weaver garage.

There was so much

litter, in such a short stretch of verge, it was obvious someone had been out and dumped it all and the breeze had done the rest.

It's so maddening to see things like that especially as the litter picking teams had only covered that stretch of road just a few short weeks ago.

Now it looks as bad, if not worse, than ever.

It would be a really sorry state of affairs if we all littered in that way.

It just annoys me that some people don't seem to consider, or just don't care about, the consequences of their littering actions.

Carolyn Veal-Shaw,  
Llantwit Major.

## The biggest cut of all?

**O**UR Vale MP Alun Cairns rightly says that cuts in government expenditure must be made (The GEM, March 17) but the biggest possible cut of all receives no mention whatsoever.

I refer to the replacement of our 'ageing' nuclear submarine fleet.

Cutting out and cancelling any replacements, and scrapping or de-commissioning our current nuclear fleet would dwarf any other individual cuts.

Where does our MP stand on this? Why no mention of it? Come on Mr Cairns, let us have your views. The same goes for the Labour Party.

Christopher Short,  
Barry

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## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

### Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## 'Leaflet was NOT from Labour'

**W**E wish to make it clear that we did NOT send out a leaflet to tenants about the ballot that is being held to decide if council homes are transferred, or whether the tenancies remain with the council.

We are aware that many tenants may have already voted, but as the ballot papers do not have to reach the Electoral Reform Service until April 5, we wish to make it clear that the leaflet was not sanctioned by us, nor did we agree that a previous letter from the Labour councillors could be reproduced in that leaflet.

Our intention was simply to ask tenants to think very carefully before they voted, but we also made it clear that no matter what the outcome your Labour councillors would still be available should you need us to assist with any housing problems - whether or not the council retains ownership of your home or whether it is transferred to the Heritage Homes Housing Association.

However, we do believe that every tenant entitled to vote in this important ballot should do so, and make sure that their choice is taken into account.

Once again, if you believed that the information leaflet came from the Labour councillors, we are sorry but we had no control over its distribution or its content.

Brownwen Brooks,  
(for Members of the Vale Labour group)

## When the town had five cinemas!

**I**AM pleased that the 'saving the Theatre Royal' campaign is still continuing in Barry and it is unbelievable that the authorities could not find the necessary funding to save it.

Yet £5 million was found for a cinema in Swansea and £4.2 million for a cinema plus theatre in Wrexham! Barry used to have, when I was young, five picture-houses - Romilly Hall, Theatre Royal, Tivoli, Vince Palace (Thompson Street), and the Regal in Cadoxton.

I remember walking home through the black-out from the Theatre Royal after watching a double-bill of *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*!

Surely no town with the population that Barry has should be left without even one cinema! Mrs D E Coombes Herridge, Barry.

## WALES IS RIGHT IN COMMITMENT TO FAIRTRADE

**T**HE organisers and supporters of Fairtrade are to be congratulated for organising the event to highlight a fortnight of activities in Dinas Powys.

Dozens of villagers gathered in the centre of Dinas Powys with cotton flags with messages which focused on the need to pay Third World farmers decent prices for their products.

The flags were made up into bunting hundreds of yards long. The aim is to create a record to make up the world's longest bunting and to get into the Guinness Book of Records.

It was great to participate in this event. I was also present at the event in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay highlighting

Fairtrade. There a Chilean farmer spoke of his thanks to the people of Wales.

Wales was officially the first Fairtrade Nation in the world, with a huge amount of Fairtrade products now available in shops across the Vale.

Choosing to buy a Fairtrade product means you are paying for a fair deal for some of the poorest farmers and workers in the world.

Even in these challenging times we need a Welsh government that is strong and ambitious.

We will not allow austerity measures to beat our ambitions for Wales as a Fairtrade nation.

Chris Franks  
(Assembly Member, South Wales Central)

## Litter problem and schools

**Y**OUR correspondent makes a good point about the litter around schools (GEM letters, March 17).

It is no coincidence that this increases during term time and the problem is endemic. The amount of rubbish scattered around one Barry school is appalling.

Protests to headteachers, councillors and community officers are usually treated with indifference. (Name and address supplied)

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## BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...  
Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

### 'RICH DIVERSITY OF BUSINESS'

## Industrial estate is the beating heart of Bridgend's economy

**T**O get an idea of the diversity of business in the Bridgend area, the best way is simply to drive around the Bridgend Industrial Estate. It takes quite some time, as the long, wide roads that intersect the

estate stretch out into the far distance. The estate, which was created from part of the massive Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) that played a vital role in the war effort in 1939-1945, is simply so much bigger than any passer-by could imagine. It is, almost goes without saying, a

major employer in the county borough, and as such makes a huge contribution to the economic life of the borough. It benefits from its proximity to the M4, and it means that customers can get to the estate quickly without any of the traffic hassle involved in getting to shops in some towns and cities.

The banking sector certainly recognises its importance, with several branches of the big high street chains on site in the administrative area.

The range of services and outlets that

trade on the estate is staggering, with local entrepreneurs playing their trade next door to national chains or major manufacturing companies. High-tech companies are working at the outer edges of research and development, while more 'bread and butter' services are also in demand.

The facts and figures about the estate are impressive. In total, the estate extends to an estimated three million square feet of commercial space on approximately 300 acres. There is traditional factory

space, distribution centres, and high quality office developments. And there is also a strong retail presence on the estate, with many customers now well aware that the Bridgend Industrial Estate has some of the nearest retail operations around.

One 'new kid on the block' is Town and Country, still trading in the town centre, but now investing in space on the industrial estate to expand its business.

The owner, Paul Evans, told The GEM: "After 28 years in Bridgend, we opened a new operation here on the estate this month. Our new bedroom furniture showroom gives us a chance to let people see the range of stock we have available - more than 1,600 fitted bedrooms!"

He added: "We have great confidence in the Bridgend Industrial Estate and it is a great place to launch a new venture!"

Much more settled on the estate is the

FRF car dealership - a landmark operation that benefits from being highly visible as motorists travel along the main road. The site has always been strongly associated with Vaushall, and FRF are the latest company to offer that company's vehicles to local motorists.

However, there have been changes, as FRF's new car sales manager, Mark James,

explained: "In the last 12 months, we have become dealers for Chevrolet and Mazda - as well as Vaushall." Taking on extra dealerships is a sign that trading conditions are on the up, and the company is taking advantage of the wide catchment area of the estate.

Mark added: "We have regular customers who travel from the Vale or from Monsey,

because the road links are good." The estate is so large that a number of different agents handle the properties, and Cooke & Arkwright look after the Central Park section. For many outlets on the estate, the barrier between 'trade and retail' customers is a thing of the past.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)



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## BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...

Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

### Good road links give estate a flying start in the business race



**ABOVE and LEFT:**  
The estate offers plenty of modern buildings that are extremely well equipped and able to meet the needs of today's businesses.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

John Jones of Cooke & Arkwright recently let a 4,000 sq ft unit to a new arrival, @turf garden store.

He said: "The new unit gives @turf the prominence to attract new business, as well as servicing existing clients."

"We are continuing to sell and let units in a difficult market and only four units now remain at Central Park."

The managing director of @turf is David Pearce, who has relocated from Pencoed. He said: "The move to Central Park has put us in a good location, with easy access to the M4."

Huw Davies, of Solar Sunshades, has seen the business expand over his 12 years on the estate, from employing 12 staff at the start, to a total of 25 now.

The transport links are important to Huw too, because he looks after customers from Pembroke Dock in west Wales, to Swindon in the east, and even Poole in the south-east!

Meanwhile, back at his Bridgend base, his showroom and good parking makes it easy

for customers to see what he is offering.

At Dougfield Plumbers' Supplies Ltd, branch manager Gareth Richards also felt that the estate had definitely been a good place to trade from.

He said: "We have been here for 14 years

and have been able to take advantage of the good road links to develop the business.

"We now serve more than one market with a bathroom showroom, and a heating supplies area, and offer a warm welcome to trade and retail customers alike."



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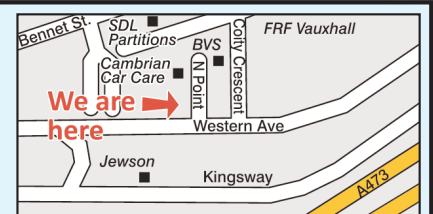
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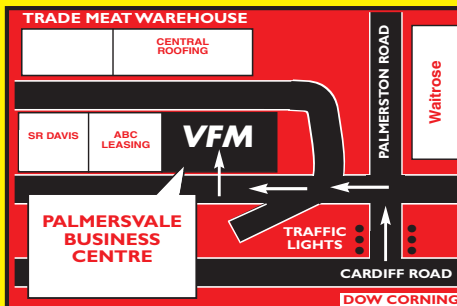
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LARGE PACKS AVAILABLE FOR HOME FREEZING • MARINATED MEATS • CHICKEN

# Submarine is an original, inventive piece of work

**THE name Richard Ayode may mean little, but fans of Channel 4 sitcom *The IT Crowd* will know him as that show's uber-geek Moss.**

What you may not know is that Ayode is also a director, having directed (as well as starred in) hilarious TV series *Garth Marenghi's Darkplace*, and music videos for the likes of Kasabian and the Arctic Monkeys. He now makes his first big screen outing with *Submarine*.

Based on the novel by John Dunthorne and filmed partly in Barry and Penarth, it follows 15-year-old Oliver (Craig Roberts) and the stresses of his life; his aim to keep his mother

(Sally Hawkins) out of the grasp of sleazy dance teacher Graham (Paddy Considine) and his love for the seemingly-untamable Jordana (Yasmin Paige)...

Given that most trips to the cinema are to watch films that have the air of predictability, be it action films that place no emphasis on story, or romantic comedies that mine the same story strands, it is all the more refreshing when you get to sit down and watch something that dares to be original and inventive.

It is even more welcoming when that piece of work is British, boxes that *Submarine* ticks with aplomb. Put bluntly, this is a truly wonderful film that has bags of wit and charm to spare.

Much of the credit for this goes to Ayode, who has adapted the screen-

play from the source novel as well as directing, and he doesn't put a foot wrong in either role.

The film's energy and pace comes from the direction that mines Ayode's love of French New Wave cinema as well as his own idiosyncratic visual style. His ability to zero in on the minutiae of teenage life is excellent, but it is the use of different film stocks to give the film a unique look, as well as clever editing techniques, that really highlight his prowess behind the camera.

Ayode wears his influences broadly, but turns them into something that feels wholly his own, with the comparisons to American director Wes Anderson (*The Royal Tenenbaums*) deserved. He shows a level of confidence that is rare for a first outing, and it pervades every frame of the film.

The casting is pitch-perfect as well, with newcomer Craig Roberts absolutely outstanding as the lead. He carries the

film with an air of maturity that is at odds with his youthful appearance, but nails the 'old-before-his years' Oliver. It is a stunning performance from the actor and one that fits the film's tone beautifully.

Opposite him, Yasmin Paige is a perfect counterpoint to Oliver's character, the mischievous nature of the character being realised wonderfully well by Paige's performance. They make for the most unsuitable, yet wonderfully matched coupling, and offer a subtle tenderness.

The supporting cast all excel, from Noah Taylor and Sally Hawkins as Oliver's parents, undergoing a period of doubt in their marriage, to Paddy Considine's turn as a former flame of Oliver's mother turned new age guru, which could have slipped into caricature, but which is held up well by the actor.

However, it is Ayode who is the real star of the show here, his sub-

## SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

lime direction and well-measured script allowing the performers to deliver. It is a highly auspicious start for the director, and *Submarine* is easily one of the finest British films to have made it out of the blocks in the last few years.

**VERDICT** – An absolutely wonderful film, *Submarine* heralds the talents of writer/director Richard Ayode and its top-notch cast, in particular Craig Roberts and Yasmin Paige. With extra points awarded for its use of local locations, *Submarine* is an inventive, original and mesmerising piece of work. *Essential viewing.*

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** The best Woody Allen or Wes Anderson comedies.

*Submarine is on general release now.*

## YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT CURIG NEWS

### Pupils' donations to the Red Cross Japan appeal



Jack, Tom and Sophie.

**PUPILS and staff from Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig were in a very generous mood last week, contributing to two very worthwhile causes.**

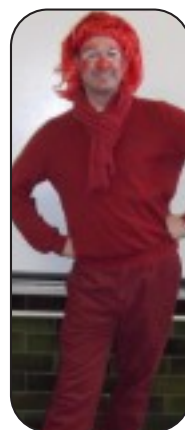
First, Jack Richards, eight years old and his brother Tom, six, and sister Sophie, four, were so moved by the tragedy in Japan that they raided their own piggy banks and brought in their pocket money to donate to the Red Cross appeal. Headteacher Mrs Owen said: "It's so lovely that children at the school once again put the needs of others in front of their own."

"I thought it was a sincere gesture and we are planning a host of fund raising activities to support this appeal in the forthcoming weeks."

The school also held a competition to see how many red items children and staff could wear for Red Nose Day.

The school raised almost £400 and year-6 teacher, Mr Matthew McAvoy, was the winner managing to keep 11 items of clothing on for the whole day!

Sisters Shevaun and Georgia Thomas Peters bought chocolates and held a school raffle, which also raised £50 towards the Comic Relief appeal.



Matthew McAvoy.

## A MESSAGE FROM HOLLY

*Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ  
Tel: 01656 726621 • Fax: 01656 722012  
Email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk*

Hi, I am Holly and I am the longest staying cat at the Cats Protection Centre, Bryncethin.

I spend my days dreaming of a cosy home with that special someone to love and care for me. My owner gave me up because she was no longer able to give me the attention I deserve. We were both distraught at being separated but I know she had my best interests at heart.

As I see so many people each day, I have found it difficult to bond with one person. I am waiting for that special someone who will see



my inner beauty and want to make me part of their lives.

I have not lived with other cats before, so would need careful introductions and lots of space to get to know each other. Please make my dreams come true by offering me a new home.

Holly

## WHAT'S ON - In brief

### Barry gig

**BARRY 60s covers band Vinyl Eyes will play the park Hotel on Saturday (March 26), with the music of the Beatles, Stones, Kinks, and others.**

### Tax help

**TAX Help for Older People will hold an advice surgery at Pencoed Library on Wednesday, April 6. To book an appointment or to use our helpline, telephone 0845 6013321.**

### Dinas play

**PARISH Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm nightly from March 31-April 2, Dinas Powys Players**

present Lord Arthur Savile's Crimes, a comedy by Constance Cox, adapted from a story by Oscar Wilde. For tickets, telephone 02920 512868 or 02920 512945.

### Mother's Day service

**ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth is holding a special family service on Mothering Sunday, April 3 at 10am.**

The worship will include items suitable for all ages and there will be flowers for all the mums and other ladies. Refreshments will be served afterwards – all are welcome.

MG

## CCTV arrests

**CCTV, under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with four arrests and the location of two missing people in the week ending March 20.**

It contacted the police on 33 occasions, with two arrests made at Holton Road, Barry for alleged shoplifting.

One arrest was made concerning a violent assault at Barry Island, while another was made over possession of drugs at Island Road, Barry. In addition, two missing people were found on Holton Road, Barry.

## PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

### Following in the footsteps of Henry V and Admiral Lord Nelson



Kymin towards Monmouth.

**FOURTEEN rambles and dogs Jodie and Jas joined Joy for a trip up to Monmouth, where the Rivers Monnow and Wye converge.**

The Normans were settlers until 1250, but this border town had two famous sons as King Henry V and Charles Rolls a motoring pioneer, who with Henry Royce created the Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, were both born there.

Passing the Monmouth Rowing Club, the group headed across the Wye Bridge and climbed to the Kymin, at around 800 feet above sea level.

The group stopped for morning coffee in front of the Roundhouse, a white tower similar to a folly with a battlement roof, constructed in 1794 and paid for by the gentlemen of Monmouth from the Kymin Club.

Vice Admiral Nelson with Lady Hamilton visited Monmouth in 1802 and enjoyed not only the views, but

also breakfast at the Roundhouse.

He, like the group, visited the nearby Naval Temple, constructed in 1800 after the British naval victory at the Battle of the Nile in 1798. It recognised 16 British Admirals who had victories at sea and their names are on the building which is topped by the figure of Britannia.

Joining Offa's Dyke path, they reached Upper Redbrook and on to the village of Newland.

Newland dates back to Edward I and the 13th century All Saints Church, also known as the 'Cathedral of the Forest' dominates the village. In Lower Redbrook, the copper works used ore brought from Cornwall and was worked until 1740 when it closed down.

At Redbrook, the group took advantage of seats in the park near the river bridge crossing to the Boat Inn, which is on the Welsh side of the Wye, before joining the Wye Valley Walk.

Contact Pam on 029 2021 9102 for further information about the group.  
**JOY STRANGWARD**

## Accolade for Age Concern

**AGE CONCERN Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan has been awarded £25,000 in recognition of its "outstanding contribution" to improving health and social care among over-60s in the region.**

The charity beat more than 400 organisations from around the UK to become one of 10 winners of this year's GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) IMPACT Awards, run in partnership with health think-tank The King's Fund.

The citation said that Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan outshone other entrants on the

strength of its positive impact on the lives of older people, many of whom are isolated, physically frail and living in poverty.

Innovative projects include a placement advisor's scheme, whereby advisors work with older people who might need to move from hospital into a care home, and a counselling service and a befriending scheme to reduce isolation.

Lisa Weeks, third sector programme manager at The King's Fund, said: "The charity thoroughly deserves its award. Not only has it demonstrated outstanding innovation, it has responded to local need and made a vast impact

on the quality of life for so many older people in the region.

"It is supported by hundreds of volunteers and operates on a tight budget, yet still helps thousands of people a year."

Jeff Hawkins, the chief executive of Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, said: "I am very proud that our work is recognised as having a positive impact, locally, on the lives of many older people."

One overall winner – to be announced at a ceremony in London on May 12 – will receive an additional £10,000 for outstanding work in addressing needs of their service users.

## Ty Hafan winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D622.**

● **The rollover, which now stands at £2,000, was not won this week.**

● **£2,000:** 676688.

● **£10:** 290487.

422069; 658802; 198849;

456815; 856771; 271741;

316201; 605599; 842693;

138788; 402449; 322243;

628838; 284699; 533883;

140992; 202033; 885800;

691172.

● **£5:** 89010; 555243;

866952; 824259; 485810;

296246; 209327; 593748;

558032; 263536; 237737;

## Horace (100) is the star of the celebrations!



Deputy Mayor Coun John Clifford (far right) joined well-wishers who gathered round Mr Horace Price to congratulate him on his 100th birthday.

**THE Deputy Mayor of the Vale of Price on reaching his 100th birthday.** A party was held at Southway where the visited Southway Care Home in Cowbridge to congratulate Mr Horace Price and his family in their celebrations.



**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL  
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

**L l a n g a n school**  
YEARS 1-2 children at Llangan Primary School are enjoying a fantastic experience – being taken to Pencoed Agricultural College every Friday for six weeks to take part in a forest school project.

This involves lighting fires and cooking marshmallows!

**Science workshop** – Last week, the school celebrated science week with various workshops, including a healthy school assembly with 'Healthy Harry' to talk to

the children. There were healthy eating workshops for each class, also water workshops and experiments for each class.

During my recent visit to the school, I was invited to the nursery class and what a delight it was. The tiny tots were having a wonderful time, with music and lovely cakes being decorated by the teaching staff.

**School centenary** – This year, the school will celebrate its centenary and I understand there will be a week of celebrations in the summer when it is hoped a number of former pupils will visit the school.

### Water problems

**PART of the green at Fferm Goch is in a sorry state at the moment – but it is all in a good cause!**

It seems new water mains are necessary in the Fferm Goch area and I was assured everything would be put in order when the job is complete.

### Exhibition stays open

**THE Oriel Washington Gallery in Penarth is extending its women's art exhibition until March 28.**

The exhibition, opened in commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8, contains paintings and 3D work by such artists as Pauline Williams, Kay Keogh, Shirley Anne Owen and Sue Roberts. All works incorporate the theme of poetry.

To enquire about the exhibition, please contact the gallery at info@washington-gallery.co.uk.

## Vale ploughing society holds its first meeting

**THE first meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing, Hedging and Fencing Society took place recently at the Six Bells Inn, Penmark.**

Having staged a very successful All Wales Ploughing and Hedging Championship event in Boverton last September, it was decided to organise further local events on an annual basis, to encourage younger people to carry on the art of good craftsmanship into the future.

The All Wales Championship for 2011 is scheduled to take place in Newport, Gwent on September 17, and so it was decided to organise the next VGPFF Society event on September 16 and a site is currently being sought.

It is intended to run six to eight classes catering for all types of ploughing, with the opportunity for newcomers and

novices to take part. It was felt that the changing patterns of farming today will get the support of Vale farmers who have, in the past, given their time and support for such events.

The elected chairman of the society is Mr Andrew Studley of Llanarfan, who was chairman of the All Wales Ploughing and Hedging Championships in Boverton.

Mr Jeremy Jacobs, who has staged ploughing matches in the Glamorgan area for a number of years, was elected as match secretary.

The next meeting of the society will be called once a site has been found to host the September event in the Vale.

Further information on the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing, Hedging and Fencing Society can be provided by Basil George on 01656 654440.

## Residents' meeting

**AN informal meeting is being held at St Richard Gwyn School at 6.30pm tomorrow, March 25, to find out whether there is sufficient interest in establishing a Pencoed Residents Association.**

The aim of the meeting is not to formalise the body, but to get people together to discuss if a group or association should be put created and, if so, what form it should take.

Among the issues to be discussed will be

provision of post boxes, local bus services and maintenance of public areas.

People will be free to raise other issues too.

## Nearly new sale

**A NEARLY new sale is to be held in aid of Cylch Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr on April 9, 10am-11.30am at the Llantwit Major Rugby Club.**

If anyone wishes to sell items at the event, contact cylch@hotmail.co.uk.

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**CELEBRATES 2ND ANNIVERSARY**

## Bro Radio and YMCA flourishing at heart of Vale community

**BRO RADIO, the Vale's own community broadcaster based at Barry, is celebrating its second anniversary on a high – audiences are increasing, advertising revenues are rising, and there's a genuine belief abroad that the station really does belong to its listening audience.**

Chairman Ray Murray, the Cowbridge-based businessman originally recruited to steer the ship into uncharted waters, puts it like this: "Most sceptics gave us less than six months, but two years down the track, we're growing from strength-to-strength. It's been a partnership between the YMCA and Bro resulting in an amazing journey so far and it seems destined only to get better."

Despite Britain's deepest recession since the dark days of wartime, Bro Radio has sailed through the obstacles with everything in its favour – a growing audience, dedicated followers, massive involvement from almost all parts of the community and a self-belief that signals better days ahead, despite the economic slouch that pervades the world outside.

Anthea Clements, the



**ABOVE: Station manager Steve Powell at last Thursday's second anniversary**

ebullient first lady of Barry YMCA, where Bro Radio has found an impressively professional base, says: "We're getting positive messages from every quarter. People are depending on us in ways we never thought possible, and that's good not only for us, but for everyone else who tunes in, because it means we're at the heart of the community."

Clive Silva, founder of CS Media and MD of Bro Radio, has worked in a creative partnership with Anthea, and they have been working closely with the Vale council members and the community to develop local knowledge and services.

There are plans afoot when cash becomes available to take flight into the wider Vale, reaching out to zones like Llantwit Major,

Cowbridge and the raft of rural villages that span the agricultural community.

"We're confident that every community out there can find a useful link with the service we provide. The recent bad weather gave us an insight into that in the way that schools, bus companies, motoring organisations, employers, doctors' surgeries, and especially the police, have pursued us for getting key messages into people's homes."

"It may sound small beer compared to what other broadcasters are doing, but its big stuff and vital to people in the local Vale."

"We're finding that the police are using us more and more to warn the public about traffic bottle-necks, accidents, drink driving, flooded roads and a myriad of

other things that they'd otherwise have real difficulty in getting across," Anthea explained.

Station manager Steve Powell gets equally encouraged by the talent that surrounds the station.

"From the young to the elderly, people have wonderful stories to tell us – and they're pouring in. The phones are backed-up all day long with folk who have messages about local events and about wanting to demonstrate their broadcasting talents."

"We can often be overwhelmed by public response. It's that good. And the commitment and enthusiasm of our young volunteer presenters is incredible."

"Without them, we could not offer the broadcast coverage we are currently achieving."

Anthea Clements was drafted in as a director and, as the YMCA's chief executive officer, used her specialist experience to seek out and find the funds that would lift Bro Radio into the digital media age of the 21st Century.

The first target was the Welsh Assembly Government, which was keen to develop digital media enterprise and help redress the decline in manufacturing and employment in this once-prosperous region.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

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# CELEBRATES 2ND ANNIVERSARY



## Bro Radio celebrate two years with party!



ABOVE: Coun Gordon Kemp is pictured with Bro Radio director Anthea Clements

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)  
Her faith in the cause raised more than £150,000 – a contribution that gave the station a state of the art studio and digital media training facility, and an endorsement that spelled out the right message to the community at large. She said: "Once we'd outlined our proposals and shown Assembly Members what we wanted to do their response was creative and positive, opening many other doors; people started flocking to our aid because they could see that the project made good sense."

"This is an area where people have belief in each other and faith in their abilities to create a better focus. At the YMCA, we get thousands

through our doors each week, year in and year out. They see the Bro Radio station, located in our foyer, and quickly realise that the two things together, the YMCA and the station, are good for one another and especially good for the community, because they touch useful and meaningful strands of their lives."

Key events in the life of Barry, Penarth and the Vale get detailed examination and outside broadcasts, which creates a lot of discussion among the listening audience. Steve Powell adds: "People here aren't afraid to commit to an opinion on anything that affects their community. This is an old and mature seaport where people have come through good

### PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL JONES



ABOVE: The Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, and the Vale cabinet member, Rhodri Traherne.



times and bad with real stoicism.

"It shows through in the stories they bring to us – and that's what makes being part of Bro

Radio such a stimulating thing, inside our studios and out there on the streets. It's a very agreeable and exciting part of our development."

## DYNAMIC THINKING IS VITAL TO DEVELOPMENT

– the driving principles behind  
Bro Radio and YMCA partnership

**DYNAMIC** straight-ahead thinking has characterised the twin development of Barry YMCA and Bro Radio in its extended Court road home, The Hub.

It's brought a new dimension to Barry life and given it a new purpose for the 21st century, thanks to the drive of two principal figures, Anthea Clements and Clive Silver, Bro's managing director.

They have worked tirelessly together in a creative partnership to forge a professional and sustainable broadcasting service for the wider Vale, working closely with their Assembly, Vale Council members and with the community to develop a knowledgeable new service.

Clive Silver, founder and managing director of CS Media Ltd, the award-winning video production and live events company, says: "The reward for our often strenuous efforts to get the station up and running is having exactly the kind of response we were hoping for – good and enthusiastic audiences who want to participate with us in devel-

oping Bro Radio as a key part of the community.

"On behalf of everyone involved, I want to thank all our listeners, local traders and community organisations for giving us such encouraging support. Without their help, we could not have achieved the milestones we've recorded so far.

"The same applies to our volunteer helpers who have made it all possible, for we've had help from all quarters and that has been a really encouraging part of our progress. Unless you can conjure up local goodwill, you cannot succeed with an initiative like this in a sustaining way.

"We're determined to keep things local, because in that way we can rival and in some ways replace the broadcast output of the likes of HTV and BBC, who don't have the time or the space to cover in detail the kind of local news and information that we're able to get across and which people tell us they find so valuable."

Station manager, Steve Powell observes, "There were sceptics out there when we began who said we wouldn't last more than a couple of months, but with two years of service

under our belts, people are now starting to take us seriously and we're even getting informal inquiries from interested parties who might be interested in copying our example elsewhere.

"We're happy to pass on any of the experience we've gained if it will help others to find their own path to community radio, because we have developed a firm faith in the cause and what it can do to improve the lives of those who tune in. It draws people closer together, gives them a unity of purpose and is easily accessible for readers to contact and get results."

Bro Radio's chairman, Ray Murray said: "My own experience of broadcasting stemmed from hospital radio, which first of all I regarded as a bit of a sideshow, until I realised that patients and staff became so closely identified with it.

"The same ethos applies to community broadcasting, for once people tumble to the fact that there's a means of communication that is flexible, versatile and immediate it's accepted as an important part of community life – and that's exactly what we want to achieve," he added.

## Funding joy for Bro Radio from the Welsh Assembly!

**BRO** Radio in the Vale is one of seven community radio stations in Wales to receive a share of £100,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Radio Fund.

The seven stations were chosen for their commitment to their communities in a number of areas, including; encouraging healthy lifestyles, promoting

training and social enterprise communities."

The seven community radio stations that were awarded grants are: **GTFM** in Pontypridd (£15,899); **BRFM** in Blaenau Gwent (£16,500); **XS** in Neath Port Talbot (£10,000); **Tudno FM** in Llandudno (£15,222); **Point FM** in Rhyl (£10,000); **Calon FM** in Wrexham (£16,500); **Bro Radio** in the Vale of Glamorgan (£15,899).

"I'm very pleased to announce these grants and to congratulate the stations on the important role they play in their

### FIND OUT WHAT IS IN YOUR GEM EVERY THURSDAY MORNING WITH AJ ON BRO RADIO!

Want to find out what is in *The GEM* before you have it delivered? Then tune in to the Bro Radio breakfast show every Thursday when AJ is joined by *The GEM*'s Gareth Jamieson to take you through the stories that matter in the Vale!



DMP wish continuing success to bro radio on their 2nd anniversary!



...and the best of luck to the Hub following the opening of their new Digital Services facility.



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## COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

# School keeps its place at the badminton top table



Under-13 girls won the team trophy.

## BADMINTON

**THE Welsh Schools Top School badminton tournament was held at the Flash Leisure Centre, Welshpool, in Powys.**

Both boys and girls teams had qualified for these finals by winning the South Wales Championships in October 2010.

The girls were drawn in a pool of three with Brynhyfryd from north Wales and Y Pant from Talbot Green. The team of four play singles at number 1 seed and number 2 seed, and doubles with number 3 or 4 seed plus number 1 seed and number 3 or 4 seed plus number 2 seed. This means that the two strongest players do not play doubles together.

### v Brynhyfryd

Jessica Oliver won singles 21-7; Jordan Carpenter won singles 21-3; Lois Palmer and Nia Patal won doubles 21-7; Jessica and Lois won doubles 21-4; Jordan and Nia won doubles 21-11. An excellent 5-0 win in their first match.

### v Y Pant

Jessica lost 11-21; Jordan won 21-11; Lois and Nia won 21-7; Jessica and Lois lost 9-21; Jordan and Nia won 21-19. This was a close match, winning 3-2 and put the team into the final versus the winner of the other group of three.

In the final against Castell Alun School, Mold in north Wales, the girls were up against three girls in the Welsh Squad and lost 4-1 with all matches in double figures.

Jessica lost 21-13; Jordan lost 21-14; Lois and Nia lost 21-18; Jessica and Lois lost 21-10; Jordan and Nia won 21-18.

Overall, the girls will be proud of becoming the second-best school in Wales in their first attempt.

In the boys competition, one school did not turn up, St Albans from Pontypridd, so the format changed to one group of five, with everybody playing each other. The boys play in the same format as the girls.

### v Alun School, Mold

Rhys Mallows won singles 21-15; Will Painter won singles 21-16; James Hendy and Matthew Goodlad won doubles 21-10; Rhys Mallows and James Hendy lost doubles 17-21; Will Painter and Matthew Goodlad won doubles 21-18.

### Cowbridge therefore won 4-1.

### v Cardiff High School

Rhys lost 9-21; Will won 21-7; James and Matthew lost 8-21; Rhys and James won 21-18; Will and Matthew lost 20-21; Cowbridge therefore lost 3-2.

### v Hawarden High School

Rhys lost 18-21; Will won 21-7; James and Matthew lost 8-21; Rhys and James won 21-18; Will and Matthew lost 20-21; Cowbridge therefore won 4-1.

### v Brynhyfryd

Rhys lost 18-21; Will won 21-11; James and Matthew lost 19-21; Rhys and James lost 16-21; Will and Matthew won 21-16; Cowbridge therefore lost 3-2.

The team finished third overall in bronze medal position. Team captain Rhys Mallows was disappointed as they had a great opportunity to win the tournament but lost two crucial games by one and two points respectively.

Well done to both teams for continuing to put the name of Cowbridge Comprehensive School on the map in badminton. The school competed in the very first one in 1977, and still have the same coach!

## HOCKEY

**The year-8 hockey team played in the county preliminary tournament against**

## St Cyres and Plasmawr.

In the first game against Plasmawr it was so-so possession throughout the game, with some great attacking play by Rosa Hartman and in defence by player of the match Millie Green. With 35 seconds to go, Plasmawr scored to make the final score 1-0.

Plasmawr went on to beat St Cyres 2-0 and Cowbridge then played St Cyres with Rosa Hartman scoring two goals and Megan McNamee the third goal in the first half.

In the second half, Millie Green scored as did St Cyres, making the final score 4-1 to Cowbridge.

The team consisted of defence: Hannah Lee, Shellie May, Caitlin Jones, Sally Gambling and Millie Green, Emily Davies and Lily Morris, Megan McNamee, Hannah Lister-Sims, Brooke-Langton Cryer, Alice Tudor and attack Ellie Eddy Williams, Evie Williams, Rosa Harman and Laurie Thomas.

Well done!

## FOOTBALL

**YEAR-7 played Cardiff High School in the final of the City of Cardiff and Vale Schools Bluebirds Cup on the Bear Field at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.**

The game started badly for the team with two goals conceded in the first five minutes of the game. Playing with plenty of possession unfortunately did not pay dividends, as the away goalkeeper and the woodwork saved the day. While it was attacking, the team conceded another two goals before half time.

4-0 down at half time, year-7s luck in front of goal needed to change. This happened early on with two goals from Jay Mann, but again a slip at the back let in two goals. With a goal from Daniel Bear, at least the team won the second half.

Playing catch-up is difficult, as the boys found out, but all players gave their best and now look forward to a friendly against year-8 on the astroturf.

## GYMNASTICS

**THE Welsh Schools Floor and Vault Championships were held at the Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff, where the school entered five teams.**

The under-19 girls team finished fifth overall, competing against many Welsh squad and British squad members. Natasha Johnston was top scorer with 16.2.

The under-19 boys team finished in bronze medal position behind a very strong Barry Comprehensive School team. Jason Sami, year-10, was top scorer on the vault with 8.8.

The under-19 mixed team finished in silver medal position behind an excellent Caldicot School of Gwent. The team suffered an injury to Caitlin Allin in warm up. Lili Evans was top scorer with 9.3 in the vault.

The under-13 boys team finished in silver medal position to Whitchurch Comprehensive School by less than a full mark. Outstanding for Cowbridge was Tom Lucas with an overall mark for floor and vault of 17.0.

The under-13 girls team came out top of the class on the day to be crowned Welsh Schools Floor and Vault Champions.

This was the first time that the school team at this age group had won the Welsh Championships.

The girls will now go on to represent Wales as a region against all the home nations in Stoke on Trent on May 7 and 8.

Mia Sexton, returning from injury, led the girls home with a top combined score of 17.9.



Under-13 boys.

## Individual Scores

| Under-19 Girls  | Floor | Vault | Total |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kim Dreyer      | 6.7   | 8.8   | 15.5  |
| Annabel Smith   | 7.1   | 8.5   | 15.6  |
| Emmy Bevan      | 6.3   | 8.6   | 14.9  |
| Natasha Johnson | 7.4   | 8.8   | 16.2  |
| Natasha Sahonte | 6.1   | 9.1   | 15.2  |

| Under-19 Boys      | Floor | Vault   | Total |
|--------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Danny Price        | 7.8   | 8.7     | 16.5  |
| Liam Martin        | 6.6   | Injured | /     |
| Kester Irwin       | 6.4   | 8.6     | 15.0  |
| Jack Scott-Coombes | 6.8   | 8.6     | 15.0  |
| Jason Sami         | 8.0   | 8.8     | 16.8  |

| Under-19 Mixed | Floor   | Vault   | Total |
|----------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Dylan Layzell  | 8.0     | 9.2     | 17.2  |
| Tobias Swann   | 7.5     | 8.9     | 16.4  |
| Rebecca Thomas | 8.0     | 8.8     | 16.8  |
| Lili Evans     | 8.1     | 9.3     | 17.4  |
| Caitlin Irwin  | Injured | Injured | /     |

| Under-13 Boys  | Floor | Vault | Total |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Tom Lucas      | 8.0   | 9.2   | 17.2  |
| Tom Trotman    | 7.2   | 8.8   | 16.8  |
| Hywel Williams | 7.0   | 8.2   | 15.2  |
| Charlie Martin | 7.1   | 8.4   | 15.5  |
| Cai Irwin      | 7.6   | 8.4   | 16.0  |

| Under-13 Girls    | Floor | Vault | Total |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Jasmine Stephens  | 8.3   | 8.8   | 17.1  |
| Jordan Stephens   | 8.3   | 8.3   | 16.6  |
| Mia Sexton        | 8.8   | 9.1   | 17.9  |
| Bridgette Walters | 8.6   | 8.5   | 17.1  |
| Ellie Medlicott   | 7.0   | /     | /     |
| Stephanie Sanders | /     | 8.3   | /     |

## Inter-County Event

**THE Welsh Schools Inter County Tumble and Vault Championships were held at the Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.**

Four pupils represented the school and county at these Welsh Championships and helped the county to retain the overall cup when they tied with South East Wales.

Under-13 girls: Jasmine Stevens (year-7), and her team won the team trophy.

Under-13 boys: Tom Trotman (year-8), was an outstanding all rounder who helped the county to bronze medal position.

Under-19 girls: Lili Evans (year-9), and her team won the team trophy.

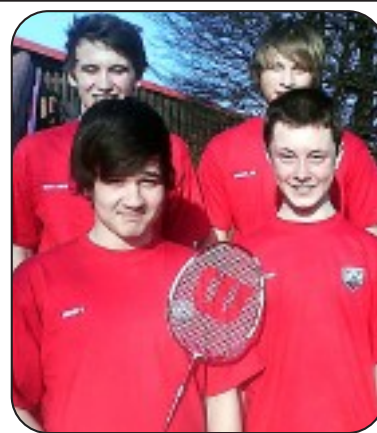
Under-19 boys: Dylan Layzell (year-13), in his final year representing the county, finished with a team silver. Dylan has been a great servant to the school and county teams over many years. Thank you to him for his support and loyalty.

## Individual Scores

|                  | Floor | Floor | Floor | Vault | Vault |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                  | 1     | 2     | 3     | 1     | 2     |
| Lili Evans       | 8.8   | 3.2   | 9.1   | 9.4   | 9.6   |
| Dylan Layzell    | 6.5   | 8.6   | 7.7   | 9.4   | 9.3   |
| Tom Trotman      | 8.3   | 7.4   | 8.0   | 8.7   | 9.3   |
| Jasmine Stephens | 8.2   | 8.7   | 8.6   | 9.4   | 9.2   |

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Welsh schools bronze medal.



Welsh schools runners-up.



Welsh schools runners-up.

## Dinas Powys FC news round up

### Girls under-12s

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**to Gwennan**

**Davies,**

**Jess**

**Thompson**

**and**

**Georgia Roberts**

**Powell for being**

**selected to attend**

**the Welsh develop-**

**ment squad run in**

**conjunction with**

**the South Wales**

**girls league, Cardiff**

**City and the FAW;**

**possible future**

**Welsh caps in the**

**making.**

Well done to the

under-12s for beating

Troedryhiw 2-0.

No mean feat, as

Troedryhiw had gone 18

games unbeaten this season

until they were out-

done on the day by a

quickly improving Dinas

Powys girls under-12s

team.

Also, best of luck in

their quarter-final tie on

March 27, at Bryn Y

Don against Valleys

United in the SWGL

cup.

**Girls under-14s**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**to Ella Hatherill, Chloe**

**Jones and Emily Hill for**

**making the Cardiff and**

**Vale under-14 squad.**

Well done also to

Kelsey Murray and Ellie

Wenger for being put on

standby for possible

selection.

Congratulations to the

under-14s for their 1-0

win against Caerphilly.

A fine run of four

games unbeaten now

puts them 12th in the

league, a fine achieve-

ment after a very diffi-

cult start in what is their

first season on full size

pitches.

MW

## Local choir to appear at Tenovus concert in Llandaff Cathedral

**THE South Wales Male Choir, which draws many of its members from Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Barry and Penarth, will be singing at the Tenovus Spring Concert in Llandaff Cathedral on Thursday, April 14, at 7.30pm.**

The concert will also feature The Tenovus Sing For Life Choir, a remarkable group of people who have been affected by cancer.

The South Wales Male Choir will be conducted by musical director Elaine Robins, the piano accompanist will be Sian Davies and the organist Terry Gilmore-James.

Choir member Terry Rooney from Llantwit Major told The GEM:

"There are 110 members in the choir, many from the Vale, some from Cardiff and Gwent – and those in exile in Bristol, Oxford and Wantage.

"The choir was formed in 1982 and its first president was Lord George Thomas of Tonypandy.

"For a payment of

£100, we will provide five top price tickets, which are £12 each, and with the extra donation your business details will be printed prominently in the concert programme."

The concert is to support one of Wales' great causes and to purchase tickets, people should

contact: the choir secretary, John Rees Davies, on 01446 746387; Terry Rooney on 01446 792417.

Tickets are also available at Chris Williams Opticians, Boverton Road, and on the door at Llandaff Cathedral.

## Council homes transfer: 'TENANTS CONSULTED'

**I MUST correct the letter from Coun Bertin in your letters page last week. Every secure tenant of the Vale Council has received a formal consultation document, which contains all the details of what would happen to their homes and services if the transfer goes ahead. Very importantly, it**

also gives all the details of what would happen if the homes stay with the council.

The comparison clearly states that the council would not have the resources available to bring homes up to the full Welsh Housing Quality Standard, as required by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Also, the council would not have the resources to invest in the estates in Gibbonsdown and Buttrills that suffer from crime and anti-social behaviour and need to be remodelled to help solve these problems.

Copies of both the council's and Heritage Coast Homes' business plans have been available for scrutiny by all Vale councillors and have been laid out side-by-side in cabinet papers and full council agendas.

Obviously some councillors are not reading these documents.

The promises made in the council's formal consultation document would be made legally binding on Heritage Coast Homes if the transfer goes ahead.

Four tenants, four

council nominees and four independent people with relevant skills and experience sit on the shadow board of Heritage Coast Homes and would be committed to delivering the promises made in the formal consultation document.

Heritage Coast Homes would be regulated by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Every piece of literature produced by the Vale Council as part of its formal consultation with tenants on the proposed transfer to Heritage Coast Homes has been checked by specialist lawyers, the independent tenant advisor open communities and by the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure it is accurate and factual.

I would urge all our tenants to read the Formal Consultation Document, ask any questions they may have and make their own minds up about the proposal and to make sure they use their vote.

**Coun Paul Church (Cabinet member for housing and community safety)**

## Beating the bounds around Llanblethian, 55 years ago



**In a recent issue of The GEM, Betty Alden of the Cowbridge History Society revealed plans for an exhibition, scheduled for July, which will focus on Cowbridge in the 1960s, 70s and 80s.**

**She also asked residents if they had any suitable photographs or memorabilia..**

**Betty dropped this fascinating photograph into The GEM office and said: "We have been loaned a number of photographs by Mrs Remy Lloyd Jones and this one, taken in the 1950s, shows the 'Beating the Bounds' ceremony on Rogation Sunday in Llanblethian. We wonder if anyone recognises the children." Betty added that the society welcomes any further items.**

**She can be contacted on 01446 773373.**

## Cowbridge bridge clubs round-up

**THE latest results are as follows:**

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Monday, March 14: First, Joan Jenkins and Jane Brook 61.25 per cent; second, Mary Moore and John Beard, 57.19; third, Anne Hughes and John Edwards, 55.94; third, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler, 55.94; fifth, Teri Pollard and Sara Bartlett, 54.06; sixth, Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox, 53.13.

Adrian Thomas, the president of the Welsh Bridge Union and member of the 2011 Welsh team who won the 'Camrose' Cup against

England, Ireland and Scotland, was a guest for the evening.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club, Tuesday March 15: First, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey, 67.50 per cent; second, Luba Ashworth and Anne Thomas, 57.00; Pat and Brian Swain 56.82; fourth, Ann Miller and Judy Springett 53.00; fifth, Glenda Roberts and Amy Owen

52.00; sixth, Marian East and Pauline McAllen 50.00; sixth, Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker 50.00. **BS**

## Older People's Forum meets Crossroads Carers group

**RENE GANNON, vice-person of the Older People's Forum, and Winnie Davies, an executive member, were invited to give a presentation at a meeting of the Penarth Crossroads Carers Group to explain how the 'Strategy for Older People' worked, and how the carers group could become part of the forum.**

Crossroads scheme in the Vale was set up in 1987 by Clair Mallia and Dr Mike Robinson, a Dinas Powys GP, who had recognised a lack of dementia service in this area.

The scheme employs a team of 40 care workers who provide care in the home, take clients out socially, run the day centres at Bryneithin and Gardenhurst, and facilitate social groups in Barry and the rural Western Vale.



**Rene Gannon and Winnie Davies with Carers from Crossroad Care in the Vale.**

In providing these services, they aim to support family carers and give them a break from their caring role. **WD**



## Set in grounds of in excess of an acre...

A rare opportunity to acquire a detached house which also comes with a separate self contained detached annexe/bungalow, and all set in a wide range of outside garden space. The house is detached and has 6 bedrooms, 4 receptions, 4 bathrooms and a small conservatory. The bungalow has 3/4 bedrooms, 1/2 receptions, a kitchen, a bathroom and shower room.

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**Chris Davies**

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**01446 711900**

**More executive properties wanted throughout the Vale – Call Andrew 07847 888750**

## NEWS FROM YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

# Rugby teams make it through to four finals!



**A HUGE achievement in the past few weeks was the participation in the finals of Cardiff and the Vale cup by four of the school's rugby teams.**

Years-7 and 10 were delighted to be given the opportunity to play in Cardiff Arms Park, whereas years-8 and 9 were narrowly beaten in the finals at Old Pens Penarth.

The four teams were worthy runners up and we hope next year that they can go one step further.

## Festival launch

YEAR-10 pupils were invited to take part in the launch of

the National Religious Education Festival at Stanwell School.

They created a performance which highlighted the importance of developing mutual respect for others. It was a powerful performance of a script created by year-13 pupil Jacob Ellis on the Holocaust. A truly memorable experience for all involved.

## Business news

PUPILS from years-12 and 13 have set up a school bank in collaboration with HSBC and are busy encouraging year-pupils to save regularly.

It is expected that this scheme will be offered to year-8 pupils in due course.



## Homer to Harry Potter

CONGRATULATIONS to year-12 pupil Siwan Clark who took part in a scheme during the half-term break entitled 'From Homer to Harry Potter'.

The scheme for able and talented pupils was organised and run by Welsh bard and academic, Dr Mererid Hopwood.

# Who wants to build what and where in the Vale of Glamorgan?

Mr Michael Hartly - The Jane Hodge Centre, Treheringyll - Provision of alternative car parking layout and landscaping to building frontage.

Mr Lee Powell - The Pippins, Drope Road, St Georges - Proposed two storey side extension with dormer windows and rear balcony.

Mr M Davies - 183 Stanwell Road, Penarth - Conversion of 1 dwelling into 2 flats.

Mr Mike Slade - 12 Cardigan Road, Dinas Powys - Two storey front extension to create lobby/WC and larger first floor bedroom.

Mr Dafydd Rhodri Davies - Morfa Yard, Brynysch, Morfa Lane, Llantwit Major - Removal of 4 metres of hedge to create new gateway into field.

Mr Neil Davies - 16 Machen Street, Penarth - Demolition of existing outhouse building to rear of property. New extension to form new utility room with access onto existing patio/raised area.

Mr Christopher Read - 5A Cawley Place, Barry - Single storey new dwelling including boundary changes to adjacent property.

Mr James Frazer-Mann - 17 Morningside Walk, Barry - Garage conversion and dormer extensions to the side and rear.

Mr Jason Kerslake - 73 Pontypridd Road, Barry - Extension to rear of property.

Mr Reginald Forse - Land at Cog Moors, Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys - Erection of hay barn, together with provision of storage areas for polythene wrapped hay bales and corral for horses to facilitate loading and unloading and use as a feeding area during extreme weather condition and retention of historic tipping.

Mr M Dummer - 28 Ael y Coed, Barry - Rear ground floor extension.

Mr Carey Jones - Brooklands Hall, Brook Lane, St Nicholas - Proposal for a rear enclosure to accommodate a disabled lift.

Mr and Mrs Ford - 7 Plymouth Road, Penarth - Demolition of existing single storey utility room/WC extension and single storey outhouse and construction of single storey extension to accommodate living space. Construction of rear facing roof dormer for new bathroom.

Mr and Mrs M Taylor - 16 Tair Onen, Cowbridge - Conservatory extension.

Mr Michael Madigan - The Barn, Newton, Cowbridge - Extension to existing property to provide a self-contained granny annexe.

Mr Rhodri Davies, Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major - erection of six single storey holiday accommodation detached timber log cabins and parking bays.

Mr Kenneth Coombes, 16 Great Thomas Close, Rhosce - single storey extension to side/front of dwelling, special needs for the disabled, bedroom, shower/WC and associated works.

Mr Abdul Khan, 113/114 High Street, Barry - alter and retain existing rear outbuilding.

Mr Ben Bennett, Gordon Bennett, 13 & 14 Broad Street, Barry - closure of existing entrance 1, reconfiguration of entrance 2.

Mr John Lindsay, 5 Tair Onen, Cowbridge - single storey extension to rear of existing property.

Mr Mark Messer, 109 Jenner Road, Barry - single storey extension to rear to replace existing outbuildings.

Dr P Sedgwick, 4 Badgers Brook Drive, Ystradowen - conversion of integral garage.

Michael Joseph, 11 Bach Road, Penarth - form doorway in rear wall of garage and construct ramp with retaining walls.

Mr G Day, 1 Wessex Place, Barry - single storey extension and dormers to rear, with new pitched roof to garage.

Mr Frederick Pearce, 9 Forest Road, Penarth - demolition of existing rear lean-to and adjacent outbuildings and construction of single storey rear extension for utility area.

Ms Jayne Barratt, rear garden of Hundred House, Llyswoyne - cut to ground level multi stemmed Ash. Reduce height and reshape Sallow. Remove overhanging limbs of Ash (next door). Remove six lower branches of Eucalyptus.

Mr Kevin Blake, Ashgrove, Leckwith Road, Llandough - part single, part two storey extension to front and to side of property.

Mr John Hanks, Ty Canol Farm, Llantrithyd - erect roof between two existing barns to cover existing cow feeding yard/steel framed portal agricultural roof structure.

Mr Caroline Lewis, Dinas Powys Infants School, Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys - Eco-School flag and flag pole in school field.

Mr John Stark, Ash Tree House, Boverton - rear two storey extensions.

Mrs Claire Matthews, 11 The Verlands, Cowbridge - retrospective amendments to planning consent. Change of roof materials; resetting of flue and amended height; new upvc windows.

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Vale of Glamorgan  
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# GROVE ESTATES



## ANGLE CLOSE, BARRY

- Well presented 2 bedroom end link property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Conservatory
- Good sized gardens to front & rear
- Stunning views over countryside
- Viewing highly recommended

**£120,000**



## BERKROLLES AVENUE, ST ATHAN

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- 3 reception rooms
- Good size grounds
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

**£102,950**



## BRYN AWEL, BUTTRILLS ROAD

- 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- 3 reception rooms
- Garage, driveway & spacious well maintained gardens
- Viewing highly recommended

**£244,950**



## WOLFE CLOSE, BARRY

- 3 bedroom property in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Driveway to front
- Viewings highly recommended
- Offered freehold with vacant possession

**£94,950**



## MAES Y CWM STREET, BARRY

- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace in central location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Very well presented throughout
- Viewing highly recommended
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain
- Offers in excess of

**£130,000**



## WINSTON ROAD, BARRY

- 3 Bedroom semi detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Recently refurbished throughout
- Front & rear gardens
- Viewings recommended

**£124,950**



## BOROUGH AVENUE, BARRY

- Well presented 5 bedroom semi-detached property
- Driveway to front for approx 2-3 cars
- Two reception rooms
- Double glazed & gas central heating
- Enclosed rear garden
- Offered freehold with no chain

**£179,950**



## BARRY ROAD, BARRY

- 3 bedroom end terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Exceptionally large accommodation
- Offered with vacant possession and no chain

**£109,950**



## PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY

- 3 bedroom semi detached in sought after location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Additional loft room
- Detached garage, workshop/utility room & driveway
- Backing directly onto countryside with panoramic rural views
- Viewing highly recommended

**£214,950**



## FAIRFORD STREET, BARRY

- 3 bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Ideal investment or first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

**£94,950**



## CHURCH ROAD, BARRY

- 3 bedroom mid terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain
- Priced for a quick sale

**£90,000**



## FAIRFORD STREET, BARRY

- 2 Bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Viewings highly recommended
- Ideal investment or first time purchase
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

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3 bedroom mid terrace, GCH, DG, unfurnished .....**£525 pcm**
- CHURCH ROAD, BARRY  
2 bedroom mid terrace, GCH, DG, unfurnished .....**£500 pcm**
- MAIN STREET, BARRY  
2 bedroom ground floor flat, GCH, DG, partial double glazing, unfurnished .....**£400 pcm**
- BROOKFIELD AVENUE, BARRY  
3 bedroom bungalow, GCH, DG, en-suite to bed 1, unfurnished .....**£625 pcm**
- CHURCH ROAD, BARRY  
2 bedroom ground floor flat, recently refurbished, DG, E7 heating, unfurnished .....**£450 pcm**
- CHURCHILL TERRACE, BARRY  
Spacious bay fronted terrace, GCH, DG, unfurnished .....**£550 pcm**
- JENNER STREET, BARRY  
3 bedroom mid terrace, GCH, DG, unfurnished .....**£550 pcm**
- ST MARYS AVENUE, BARRY  
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www.bridgend-today.co.uk  
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## GEM Family Notices

### HICKS Clive

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend on March 15th 2011, Clive, much loved and cherished elder son of the late Arthur and Margaret. Dearly loved brother of Rob.

A pleasure to be with - a great privilege to know.  
Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St. Illtud's Church on Monday 28th March at 2.15 p.m. followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 5.45 p.m. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

### Bond Roger

Peacefully on March 16 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Roger of Llantwit Major.  
Beloved husband of the late Avril, dearly loved father of Philip and Simon, father-in-law of Eunice and Sue, much loved grandfather of Nathan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônnon. Funeral Tuesday March 29, service and cremation 3.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research UK c/o J James, 11 Ffônnon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

### JONES Muriel Elsie

Carol, Alun, Stuart and their families would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support during mum's illness, cards and messages of sympathy and generous charitable donations.

Thank you also to all who attended the service for mum, with special thanks to Barry Male Voice Choir for their musical contribution, Maureen Tearle for her uplifting words and Adams Funeral Home for their dignified and considerate services.

The family would also like to thank all staff who cared for her so wonderfully at Velindre Hospital as an outpatient and her period of time on the ASU Ward. Our thanks also go to the staff at Holme Tower Hospice for their dedicated care and support during this difficult time.

## Public Notices

### THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995

#### CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:  
HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

#### Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00155/FUL  
Proposal:/Cynnyg: Change of use from grazing land to cricket ground and associated car parking facilities.  
Location:/Lleoliad: Giebfields, Sully

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at [vog.planning-register.co.uk](http://vog.planning-register.co.uk)

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i [vog.planning-register.co.uk](http://vog.planning-register.co.uk).

Dated: 17 March, 2011  
Rob Thomas  
Head of Planning and Transportation  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
Dock Office,  
Barry Docks,  
Barry  
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 17 Mawrth, 2011  
Rob Thomas  
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant  
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,  
Swyddfa'r Doc,  
Dociau'r Barri,  
Y Barri  
CF63 4RT

## Anniversary

Happy 45th  
Wedding Anniversary  
**MARGARET & SELBY DAW**  
on 26th March, 2011  
Lots of love,  
from all the family  
x x x x

## Funeral Directors

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**NEW Quality Mothercare 'Salcombe' child's bedroom suite.**  
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**01446 730623** (12/13)

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## ST DAVID'S DAY WAS MARKED IN STYLE!

**The usual weekly meetings of Barry WI took place in February and March.**

The speaker for February talked about GI brides of Barry. The ladies found this very interesting as it brought back memories of the SRD and other places used during the war.

March has been a busy month. On March 1 (Tuesday afternoon meeting) we held a St David's Day celebration. Two stories were read and Welsh music was played, with some singing from the ladies.

The afternoon tea was Welsh cakes, bara brith and cheese scones, served with a cup of tea or coffee. This was excellent, and while the ladies were

clearing up we played Hoi Bingo. It was a very sociable afternoon.

No speaker was booked for the monthly evening meeting as we were having our St David's supper and the drama group show. As usual, there was plenty to eat, and thanks to our president June for doing all the shopping. We would like to say thank you to the ladies who helped laying out the buffet. The drama group was excellent and Marie Carter did a very good job of organising this.

Our meetings are open to any lady who would like to come along and see how WI works.

Further details from the secretary on 01446 410139.

**Jeanette Chilcott**

## 'Urban trees' proposed

**A Barry councillor is proposing that an 'urban tree scheme' should be adopted in the town and other communities in the Vale.**

The idea is not only to make the local environment more pleasant for people, but to make use of extra 'services' that trees provide.

Coun Rob Curtis explained: "I believe that street or urban trees make our communities a better and more pleasant places in which to live and raise families."

"They benefit our towns and villages in a number of ways."

"They filter polluted air and absorb traffic noise. They moderate the local climate by slowing and absorbing wind and storm water. They are also critical in cooling the 'urban heat' during the summer months."

Coun Curtis also said that the presence of street trees can have a positive

effect on the incidents of asthma, skin cancer and many stress related illnesses.

He also pointed out that average house prices can be up to 18 per cent higher where property is associated with mature trees.

"Urban or street trees also provide vital nesting, shelter and food for birds and other wild animals thus helping to support bio-diversity."

"To pay for the planting and nurturing of existing and newly planted trees, the council should investigate a scheme to allow the sponsoring of them by individuals, businesses and voluntary organisations."

"People could sponsor the planting of a tree as a celebration, as a living memorial or as a 'green gift' that would help communities in the Vale."

Coun Curtis is putting forward his proposal to a council scrutiny committee.

# British Airways Maintenance team pull together in aid of Comic Relief

BRITISH Airways maintenance team in Cardiff raised money for Comic Relief, by hosting an 'aircraft pull' with its local teams at Cardiff International Airport on Red Nose Day (March 18).

Made up of British Airways staff, 12 teams, comprising 35 members each took part in the pull. Before each pull, professional sportsmen Matt Elias (400m hurdler) and David Roberts (Olympic swimmer) led the warm-up activities.

In addition to the fundraising, there were trophies for 'best dressed team', 'most sponsorship money raised' and 'fastest time', as well as a medal for every entrant.

Local schoolchildren were invited to watch the event.

Since British Airways joined forces with Comic Relief in June 2010, the airline has raised in excess of £700,000 for 'Flying Start' – the airline's charity partnership with Comic Relief, which aims to transform the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the UK and around the world.

Bill Kelly, British Airways general manager at Cardiff Maintenance Bay, said: "The response from our colleagues to support this event was exceptional."

"I'm delighted that a large number of BA teams from across south Wales joined us on the day to 'Do Something Funny for Money', and, of course, for Flying Start."

## PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE WILCOCK



## Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Girls' Cross-Country Championships and League

# WONDERFUL DAY FOR THE VALE GIRLS!

**AFTER years of letting city schools dominate the team awards in the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools cross-country league and championships, the Vale schools at last claimed the lion's share of the titles on offer.**

The current structure of championship age groups has been in place since the late 90s, with the equivalent league structure pre-dating that.

In the dozen or so years since the championships change, Vale schools have never won more than two of the six titles available – three in both the championships and the league.

In the final league fixture and championships, held at Trelai Park on a dry day but with a chilly breeze, all that changed.

As expected, year-9 Kate Seary was in a class of her own in the opening race, cantering away from her two Vale rivals, Kate Coker (Stanwell) and Erin Hayes (Llantwit), to complete an unbeaten season and also taking the individual championship and the league points title.

Her Whitchurch team was expected to claim a league and championships title double but, on the day, the North Cardiff school fielded an usually small team, and their chances nose dived. Cardiff High just pipped Cowbridge by a single point to claim the championship title, with Llantwit in third spot.

In the league, Cardiff High again headed the placings, but the second place by the Cowbridge girls meant that they took the league honours.

For the third time this season, the determined running from Seren Allin (Cowbridge) saw off the challenge from Caitlin Xerri (Cardiff High) to

take the league points title and the championships.

The Stanwell front runners have been in good form this winter and emulated their boys by taking the four to score championship title from Llanishen and Howells.

In the six-to score league competition, the Howells squad produced its best performance of the season to claim the 30 league points.

Stanwell finished fourth on the day, but the school's 85 points total was enough to see off the Llanishen challenge, with Howells pipping Cowbridge for third spot on position points.

Two races, three titles. This was already the Vale girls' best ever day, but there was more to come.

Year-12 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) had won the final race, for senior girls in years 10 and above, at the opening two fixtures. Although she had been ill around Christmas and had missed the McCain Cardiff Cross Challenge, it was thought that she had made a full recovery.

It certainly looked like that as she built up a comfortable lead over year-10 Megan Osborne (Llantwit), but everything changed in the closing stages. Megan started a late charge, and Bethan faltered. The result was a win for Megan, who claimed the under-17 championship title. Bethan, who was second in the race, won the under-20 championship and retained her league points title, and year-11 Fiona Bray, who was fourth finisher, was third in the under-17 championships.

In the team competitions, the Cowbridge quartet won the championship on 47 points, and was the only school to finish six scorers in the league – a performance which earned 20 league

points and a final score of 59 out of 60, to take that team title as well.

What a wonderful day for the Vale girls – three individual championship titles out of four, two championship team titles out of three, two individual league points titles out of three and three league titles out of three.

When the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Cross-Country Presentation is held at Bro Morgannwg on Wednesday, May 11, the Vale girls are going to be collecting the majority of the top awards – for the first time.

### Vale results

Championships: Senior Girls – 4.3 km – 45 finishers – 1 Megan Osborne (Lwt) U17-1:17.14; 2 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) U20-1:17.20; 4 Fiona Bray (Cow) U17-18:08; 7 Lucy Tarrant (Lwt) U17-18:32; 9 Danielle Green (StRichGwyn) U17-7:19.25; 11 Bethan Allman (Cow) U17-8:19.43; 14 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) U17-11:20.29; 18 Miriam Bennett (Cow) U17-14:20.43; 23 Katie Wynne (Cow) U17-19:21.11; 24 Bethan Yapp (Bro M) U17-20:21.13; 27 Lisa James (Bro M) U17-22:21.32; 28 Chloe Webber (Bryn H) U17-23:21.44; 29 Anthea Young (Lwt) U17-24:22.16; 31 Rebecca John (Cow) U17-25:22.18; 32 Kathryn Gardner (Bryn H) U17-26:22.31; 38 Leah Kirby (Bro M) U17-30:23.59; 39 Megan Punter (Bro M) U17-31:24.10; 40 Sarah Herbert (Bryn H) U17-32:24.44; 41 Chloe Phillips (Lwt) U17-33:25.25; 43 Zoe Hodgkinson (Bryn H) U17-34:26.41; 45 Kirby Redrup (Bryn H) U17-36:30.07.

Teams: 1 Cowbridge 47; 4 Llantwit 78; 7 YG Bro Morgannwg 128; 8 Bryn Hafren 143. Year 8 and 9 Girls – 3.6 km – 105 finishers – 2 Kate Coker (Stan) 14:21; 3 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 14:41; 10 Nadine James (Cow) 15:45; 11 Anastasia Mirza-Davies (Stan) 15:47; 12 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 15:57; 13 Ellie Atkinson

(Lwt) 15:59; 16 Ella Emyr (Cow) 16:16; 19 Alice Tudor (Cow) 17:01; 28 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 17:38; 30 Ffion Davies (Bro M) 17:54; 32 Elin Phillips-Bowen (Bro M) 17:55; 33 Brooke Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 18:01; 34 Charlotte Webber (Bryn H) 18:01; 35 Kayla Huggins (Bryn H) 18:05; 37 Caitlin Young (Bro M) 18:14; 41 Lauren Blake (StRichGwyn) 18:32; 42 Kierney O'Dare (Lwt) 18:33; 43 Holly Howles (Lwt) 18:37; 46 Eleanor Hicks (Lwt) 18:55; 47 Natasha Johnston (Cow) 18:56; 51 Sally Gambling (Cow) 19:20; 54 Catrin Davies (Bro M) 19:29; 55 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 19:32; 56 Megan Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 19:36; 57 Ffion Hopkins (Lwt) 19:38; 60 Evie Williams (Cow) 19:49; 64 Tamara Pitt (Lwt) 20:09; 70 Mellisa Gray (Lwt) 20:40; 71 Milly Williams (Stan) 20:43; 72 Sophie Morse (Bryn H) 20:45; 74 Megan Thomas (Bro M) 20:50; 75 Ruth May (Lwt) 20:54; 80 Robin Tait (Bro M) 21:31; 81 Alys Walton (Bro M) 21:35; 83 Abbie Dee (StRichGwyn) 21:59; 84 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 22:03; 85 Sarah Arnold (Bryn H) 22:08; 86 Heuwn Hill (StRichGwyn) 2:11; 87 Laura Young (Lwt) 22:14; 97 Sophia Swaffield (StRichGwyn) 22:59; 100 Morgan White (StRichGwyn) 23:31; 104 Rebecca Gill (StRichGwyn) 27:41; 105 Kelsey Penikett (StRichGwyn) 27:41.

Teams: 2 Cowbridge 57; 4 Llantwit 101; 8 YG Bro Morgannwg 153; 9 Stanwell 168; 10 Bryn Hafren 169; 12 Cowbridge B 186; 14 Llantwit B 255; 19 St Richard Gwyn 307. Year-7 Girls – 3 km – 107 finishers – 1 Seren Allin (Cow) 11:59; 5 Emily Wooster (Stan) 13:25; 6 Annabelle Birch-Hurst (Stan) 13:49; 11 Seren Marsh (Stan) 13:59; 12 Ysabelle Williams (Westbourne) 14:21; 16 Kelsea Peterson (Bro M) 14:42; 29 Niamh Jenkins

(Cow) 15:30; 31 Cerys Bradshaw (Cow) 15:42; 33 Georgia Logan-Davies (Stan) 15:52; 35 Nia Fenn (Bro M) 16:00; 43 Gemma Viney (Cow) 16:28; 44 Victoria Bennett (Cow) 16:30; 48 Tesni Sewell (Bro M) 16:37; 52 Alicia Thomas (Cow) 16:48; 54 Isobel Smith (Cow) 16:50; 58 Rebecca Humpage (Stan) 17:01; 59 Sophia Harpin (Cow) 17:02; 60 Daisy Williams (Stan) 17:06; 66 Eleanor Farr (Cow) 17:25; 73 Libby Evans (Bro M) 17:44; 74 Belinda Wallace (Bro M) 17:55; 75 Ffion Thomas (Bro M) 17:56; 76 Tayla Gerrish (Bro M) 17:44; 89 Megan Aspell (Lwt) 19:54; 90 Bethan Herman (Bryn H) 19:56; 91 Beth Wride (Lwt) 19:58; 92 Nia Rees (Lwt) 20:05; 97 Donna O'Hare (StRichGwyn) 20:59; 99 Bethan Evans (Stan) 22:02; 102 Jess Wyatt (Lwt) 23:24; 106 Mary Gale (StRichGwyn) 25:42.

Teams: 1 Stanwell 55; 6 Cowbridge 104; 10 YG Bro Morgannwg 172; 13 Cowbridge B 209; 17 Stanwell B 289; 20 Llantwit 374. League 3 – Senior – 1 Cowbridge 175 (20); 3 Bryn Hafren 42 (18); 5 Llantwit 106 (16); 8 Bro Morgannwg 56 (13); 11 St Cyres 44 (10); 12 St Richard Gwyn 37 (9). Years 8 and 9 – 2 Cowbridge 466 (24); 3 Llantwit 425 (23); 5 Bro Morgannwg 329 (21); 7 St Richard Gwyn 125 (19); 8 Bryn Hafren 256 (18); 12 Stanwell 276 (14). Year-7 – 4 Stanwell 475 (27); 6 Cowbridge 449 (25); 9 Bro Morgannwg 327 (22); 14 Llantwit 147 (17); 15 St Richard Gwyn 13 (16); 16 Westbourne 96 (15); 18 Bryn Hafren 18 (13). Overall League placings: Senior – 1 Cowbridge 59; 4 Bryn Hafren 48; 6 Bro Morgannwg 43; 7 Llantwit Major 42; 10 St Cyres 32; 12 St Richard Gwyn 28; 14 Stanwell 18. Year 8 and 9 – 1 Cowbridge 71; 5 Stanwell 60; 8 Llantwit Major 56; 9 Bryn Hafren 53; 10 Bro Morgannwg

50; 13 St. Richard Gwyn 40; 18 St Cyres 21; 23 Westbourne 6. Year-7 – 1 Stanwell 85; 4 Cowbridge 78; 6 Bro Morgannwg 77; 12 Llantwit Major 52; 14 St Richard Gwyn 46; 15 Bryn Hafren 44; 18 St Cyres 36; 20 Westbourne 35.

### Aviva Welsh Schools Golden Celebration National Cross-Country Championships

**THE success of the Vale girls was on display when the Aviva Welsh Schools Golden Celebration National cross-country championships were held at Penlan, Brecon.**

Eighteen Vale pupils were included in the 48 strong girls' team selected to represent the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan district: Senior Girls (Years 12 and 13) – Bethan Daw (St Cyres); Elinor Pugh & Isabelle Evans (both Howell's), Sabrina James (Cowbridge). Middle Girls (Years 10 and 11) – Megan Osborne and Lucy Tarrant (both Llantwit), Fiona Bray, Miriam Bennett and Bethan Allman (all Cowbridge). Junior Girls (Years 8 and 9) – Kate Coker (Stanwell), Erin Hayes (Llantwit) and Nadine James (Cowbridge).

Year-7 – Seren Allin (Cowbridge), Emily Wooster, Anabelle Birch-Hurst & Seren Marsh (all Stanwell), Amy Thomas (Howells) & Ysabelle Williams (Westbourne).

In addition, Miss Emma Williams (Bryn Hafren) and Mrs Clare Williams were included in the management team.

This year's event is a celebration of the 50 years since the first Welsh Schools National cross-country championships (for boys) was held at Newtown, then in Montgomeryshire, on March 4, 1961. The winner of the junior boys race at that first event was Phil Morgan of Barry Boys' School.

**Report PETER MORRIS**



Bethan Daw and Megan Osborne.



Seren Allin.

Erin Hayes.

## Under-8s just miss the cut

**LLANTWIT Major under-8s travelled to Llandaff North on Sunday to enter the local rugby tournament.**

After a long wait, they finally played the first game against Llandaff North under-8s. Llantwit won this match in a close-run game with good hand work from both teams.

Next up was CRICC, a team Llantwit have previously beaten on numerous occasions but not this time. CRICC showed flare and determination and triumphed by a point.

The third game was against Rhymney. Llantwit, still smarting from the earlier defeat, took no prisoners in this game and scored an

unanswered 10 tries to nil in this very fast game.

The final game of the group was a must-win for Llantwit but this wasn't their day. Llanishen were undefeated and looking for a clean sweep at Llantwit's cost.

The game was very fast and well controlled by Llanishen with a few sparks of magic from a tired Llantwit team.

Llantwit missed out from playing in the quarter finals by one point.

**Llantwit Major's team:** Kieran Daw, Bradley Claxton, Garin Evans, Jacob Hunt, Jonathan Bramhall, Kofi Jones, Luke Pownall, Morgan Thomas, Sam Deere and Toby Thorne.

Well done Llantwit under-8s; next tournament in Barry.

MD

### LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

## Under-14 As win local derby

**LLANTWIT MAJOR under-12 side visited Dinas Powys and in a very close match, they lost 3-2.**

The Llantwit boys were very upset when the referee gave Jack Barnett offside when he dribbled the ball past two Dinas defenders to score.

This would have given Llantwit a draw and a share of the spoils. The two goals that were given came from Dan Viggers and Jack Barnett.

The under-14A beat Cowbridge Town 3-1 in the local derby at

by GWYN JOHN

Windmill Lane.

It was a keenly-fought tussle with Llantwit taking their chances through Liam Reid, Connor Clarke and Jake Sutcliffe.

A good team display saw them back on the winning trail.

Dylan Owen notched a goal for the under-14B side in their 5-1 home defeat against Sully Sports B and in their final home match of the season, the under-16 team finished on a disappointing note, losing 3-0 to Cogan Coronation.

## Dinas girls grab vital victory

**THIS was a top of the table clash between two sides with 100 per cent records in the league, although Mardy had beaten a weakened Dinas Powys side 5-0 in an earlier cup game.**

Both sides started nervously but it was the visitors who settled quickest without creating too many clear opportunities to score, while our girls struggled to get their passing game together.

The first half was mainly a tough battle between the powerful

**Dinas Powys Girls under-18s 1 Mardy Tigers under-18s 0**

midfielders on both sides with the Tigers shading it on possession and chances.

After the break the home side settled down and started to play some more cohesive football although the best chance came to Hattie Powell, the Tigers lone forward, who got through the middle of the Dinas defence only to have her shot blocked by home keeper Amy O'Callaghan.

Apart from a mad scramble in front of O'Callaghan's goal chances were again at a premium, although home

striker Shanell Edwards created a great chance for herself with some tricky skills, only to blast her shot high and wide.

While Mardy again edged possession, they couldn't create much to trouble the home keeper.

With five minutes to go and the game looking like ending in a rare goalless draw, the Tigers lost the ball in midfield. It was picked up by Jordan Guard who slipped a superb pass between the visitors right back and centre back for Edwards to run on to and finish neatly into the far corner.

The final minutes were dominated by Mardy, who threw everything at Dinas but with some resolute defending, and O'Callaghan taking two superb catches from very dangerous in-swinging corners while under extreme pressure, our girls managed to see out time.

### Ellen's success

THERE was some great news from Belgium, where Wales under-19 girls were playing a friendly on Tuesday.

Ellen Phillips, who plays for the Dinas Powys ladies team, scored in a 2-2 draw.

MW

## COWBRIDGE UNDER-14S FIGHT BACK

**COWBRIDGE under-14 football team – sponsored by Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, played Woodford Youth from Essex – sponsored by Fairlop Lions.**

Cowbridge are the current Lions District 105W champions, having beaten Frome previously.

Woodford, playing with the slope, wind and sun in the first half, proved too strong for

Cowbridge, and the score was Cowbridge 1, Woodford 8 at half time.

The half time team talk by coach Alan Griffiths will go down in history – we will never know what he told the lads. They came out fighting and the second half was 0-0.

The Lions organised after-match refreshments at Noah's Place, Ramoth Chapel, to ensure the Woodford boys returned to Essex full of Welsh sausage casserole thanks to the Rev Heather and her team.

JW

# Cowbridge under-8s' two teams enjoy rugby tournament

**COWBRIDGE under-8s took a trip to Cheltenham where two teams competed in the Cheltenham Rugby Festival.**

One team entered the Cherokee league competing in pool B, and the other in the Chiefs league in pool A. All players and supporters wish to thank the coaching team of Rich, Robin and Andy for their commitment and efforts with the whole of the under-8s squad.

**Cherokees Pool B:**  
Cowbridge under-8s  
Cherokees squad:  
James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, Ellis Greenwood, Harry Holtam, Ellis Howell, Tom Johnson, McKinley Parsons, Dewi Williams.

The pool was keenly contested and despite not winning too many games, the Cowbridge team performed well in attack throughout the games.

The short, sharp games spread proved to be an exciting challenge.

**Cowbridge 3 Bradford On Avon 4**  
A close game where Cowbridge kept pace with the eventual winners of the group throughout the match.

With the scoreline at 2-2 at half-time, with tries from Harry Holtam and Owen Godsall, the second half was destined to be a hard fought four minutes of rugby.

Bradford opened the scoring before Cowbridge responded with a try from Dewi Williams. A lack of width in defence and

some ball tracking let the Cowbridge side down, allowing Bradford to score the winner just seconds before the final whistle.

Tries: Harry Holtam, Owen Godsall, Dewi Williams.

**Cowbridge 3 Minety 5**  
Again, another closely fought game saw Tom Johnson cross for Cowbridge in the first half after some excellent running and passing by Elis Greenwood.

Cowbridge conceded a trio of tries by half-time, but kept pace with Minety through the second half with Ellis Howell crossing twice after some excellent running and passing by the team.

Tries: Tom Johnson, Ellis Howell (2).

**Cowbridge 3 Stow on the Wold (II) 7**  
A couple of quick tries conceded by Cowbridge exposed defensive weaknesses and put them on the back foot for the remainder of the first half.

Despite McKinley Parsons running in an excellent try before half-time, Cowbridge went in to the break trailing 5-1.

Better width in defence and some good tagging from Cowbridge kept the Stow runners under control and limited their try tally to two. Elis Greenwood crossed twice for Cowbridge with one excellent touchline run-in.

Tries: McKinley Parsons, Elis Greenwood (2).

**Cowbridge 4 Stour 6**  
Cowbridge put in a good performance and defended enthusiastically

ly against a rampant Stroud, who had to work very hard for their three-try haul in the first half.

Elis Greenwood and Owen Godsall responded for Cowbridge with some excellent finishing and with the game in the balance at half-time, Stroud scored first in the second half to give them a two-try lead.

Dewi Williams crossed twice, but two further tries from Stroud resulted in Cowbridge losing 6-4.

Tries: Elis Greenwood, Owen Godsall, Dewi Williams (2).

**Cowbridge 5 Chippenham 3**  
Cowbridge's final game was against the hosts. James Gilvear scored Cowbridge's first try, while their second came from a turnover resulting from the completion of a seven-tag sequence by Cowbridge.

Following the turnover, Elis Greenwood scored and Tom Johnson also crossed the line before half-time, giving Cowbridge a 3-1 lead.

Tom added to his first half try and Dewi Williams converted a period of concerted pressure from Cowbridge into a try. The team ended a tough tournament with a win and some good defensive lessons learned through the 40 minutes of rugby they played.

**Chiefs Pool A**  
COWBRIDGE under-8s  
Chiefs squad: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harry Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack

Reilly, Harry Whittaker and Jake Williams.  
**Cowbridge 3 Rhiwbina 5**  
In the first game, Cowbridge played the eventual winners of the tournament and it is fair to say that the Cowbridge boys gave them as good a game as they got.

Jake started off his Cowbridge player of the tournament display with two tries and Oliver, again continuing to improve, scored one. Regrettably, as in later games, Cowbridge's defence let them down.

**Cowbridge 3 Swindon 2**  
In the second game, Cowbridge beat Swindon with Jake, Jack and Oliver all scoring.

**Cowbridge 4 Salisbury 5**  
This was the crunch game, but from Cowbridge's perspective, the most disappointing.

It was end-to-end stuff with Salisbury eventually winning 5-4, even though with little time left it was three tries all.

Unfortunately the defence, which has been so good in friendlies recently, let them down.

Tries in this game were from Jake (2), David and Ioan.

**Cowbridge 5 Sherbourne 3**  
In the fourth game, Cowbridge produced their best rugby of the tournament. There were two tries from Oliver and three by Jake, although it was the teamwork that shone through.

**Cowbridge 1 Corsham 4**  
Sadly, by this time, Cowbridge were unable to qualify. Some of the bad habits of earlier games came back to haunt them as missed tags cost them dearly, and the only Cowbridge try was scored by Jake.

All in all this was a useful learning experience and it's perhaps fair to say that finishing fourth in their group probably didn't reflect this team's potential.

**JS**

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**Jasmine Quinn (age 8) from Bridgend – proud finisher at last year's event.**

## Vital three points earned by Cadoxton Barry FC

**South Wales Senior League Division One**  
**CADOXTON BARRY FC** 3  
**CWMBACH ROYAL STARS** 1

**WHILE the score might suggest otherwise, Cadoxton Barry FC were forced to battle all the way for three points that could eventually prove vital in their bid to avoid relegation.**

The star man in that battle was Pat Curran, who was paramount in helping his team take home the important three points.

Stars had a huge centre forward who was the target of many of their forward thrusts; yet Curran, by means of excellent marking and his perfectly-timed headed clearances, rendered this potentially dangerous striker ineffective for most of the game.

The first half belonged to Cadoxton Barry as an early Mills cross found Martyn, who hit a post with Murphy unable to steer the rebound home.

At the other end, Curran made a crucial clearance as Matthew Jones was preparing to pounce, but it wasn't long before he was back at the other end of the action, as the point-saving double act of the previous week got together again – Curran running in to score an excellent header from an equally good Martyn corner kick.

Before 25 minutes were on the clock, Mills, playing a slightly deeper role than usual, fed Murphy to double the lead.

Ten minutes later, Martyn got hold of the ball some 35 yards out on the left, and his cross-cum-shot completely deceived Prosser in the Stars' goal as it dropped into the net.

This seemed to sting Cwmbach into action as, for the first time in the game, and with half-time approaching, they began to build a head of steam.

Indeed they continued in this manner into the second half, and as the pressure grew, Curran made his only error of

the game as an under-powered back pass allowed Matthew Jones to intercept for a simple goal.

Cadoxton Barry broke upfield for Mills to set Baker up with a half chance, but Prosser was able to smother it.

Towards the end, Cadoxton began to come out of their shell, Mills crossing for Martyn to send a shot just wide.

The next match takes place on Tuesday, March 29 when AFC Butetown will be the visitors to Jenner Park in a 6.15pm kick-off.

The latest Linnets' Lottery draw saw the numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 come out of the bag. There were no winners so next week's offered prize goes up to £300, with a choice of six numbers from 19.

**NW**

**NW**

**NW**

**NW**

## CHANCE TO TRY JUNIOR TRIATHLON

**THE Pencoed Junior Triathlon and 'Fun2Tri' event for eight-16 year olds will take place at Pencoed Pool, on Sunday, May 22.**

A spokeswoman said: "Children will swim, bike and run in four age groups. Distances are suited to the age of the child, and medals will go to the top three male and females in each age group."

"To give all children, regardless of experience and fitness levels, the opportunity to have a go, our Fun2Tri novice wave

for eight-14 year olds will not be timed, has shorter distances and an emphasis on having a go and having lots of fun!" said event organiser Debbie Cooke. "The event takes place in the pool and on surrounding playing fields – entirely traffic free."

For an entry form and further information, visit the club website [www.pencoedtri.org](http://www.pencoedtri.org) or email [ema@pencoedtri.org](mailto:ema@pencoedtri.org) or telephone Liz Lewis on 01446 771507. The closing date is May 16 or when event full (maximum 100 entrants).

**MB**

## Rhose under-12s hang onto hard victory

**RHOOSE under-12s started their game with Wenvoe well and opened the scoring with a well worked move.**

Lee Bartlett and Cameron Leach found Josh Morgan in space, and he calmly rounded the keeper.

Jay Munn battled hard in midfield and it was his cross that led to a second goal for Rhose when Mitch McCabe just managed to get in front of the Wenvoe defender.

Wenvoe played some good attacking football and Rhose had to rely on keeper Michael Wilson several times.

In the second half Wenvoe continue to press, but Rhose

defenders Edward Thomas and Ryan Hughes made some great blocks.

Matt Cottingham and Patrick O'Carroll also made some timely interceptions to thwart Wenvoe attacks.

Wenvoe pulled one back, but Rhose maintained their advantage with a superbly hit strike by Daniel Cope which found the top corner.

Wenvoe scored again towards the end of the match, which meant a nervous time for Rhose, but with Jordan Holt making some good challenges in midfield, and Andrew Wilson holding the ball up well, Rhose managed to hang on to their victory.

**MB**

**MB**

**MB**

**MB**

**MB**

**MB**

**MB**

**MB**

**MB**

**MB**

## Busy time for Cowbridge Town under-12 B team

**COWBRIDGE Town under-12 B have been busy recently with plenty of games, although with a mixed bag of results and performances.**

The team travelled to Wenvoe and after a great team effort, came away with a well earned 2-2 draw, Tom Bailey scoring both his team's goals.

Next up were Cadoxton Imps A, and in a very entertaining game Cadoxton just edged it 3-2, with Callum Blackman scoring both Cowbridge goals.

Sully B came to Corntown and again in a very good game, after getting themselves back into the game at 4-4, bad habits crept back into the Cowbridge display and Sully went on to score three more goals, to leave the final score 4-7 to Sully; goalscorers James Reeves (2), Joe Watts and Tom Bailey.

Cowbridge then had two away games. First up was Dinas B, and after leading 2-1 for most of the game Dinas equalised in the last seconds to force a draw; goalscorers Tom Bailey and an own goal.

The boys then travelled to play Cogan B and in a much improved display, they ran out 4-2 winners with

goals coming from Iwan Goodwin, Owen Tuckell (2), and an own goal.

Cadoxton B came to Corntown and in a one-sided game ran out 9-1 winners, Iwan Goodwin with the consolation goal for Cowbridge.

The boys then had two away games, the first being against Holton Road. In a game of two halves, the boys conceded six first half goals, while the second half display was superb, conceding no goals and getting on the score sheet themselves through a James Reeves penalty, to leave the final score 6-1.

The return game at Sully B ended in a 2-2 draw with goals coming from Joe Watts and Iwan Goodwin.

Hopefully, the boys can improve on their recent results and performances and get a few wins under their belts.

Thanks to Craig Burrows and all the senior team players for helping out with training and the continuing support of all the parents.

**Squad:** H Hopkins, T Kynaston, J Evans, A Davies, I Silverthorne, J Reeves, J Watts, S John, S Skeet, T Bailey, C Blackman, O Tuckwell, I Goodwin, S Fairclough, S Treharne, J Jones, M Timms.

**EJ**

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## TEAM SO CLOSE TO FINAL GLORY



## Vale team in form but lose out in semi-final

LEFT: Nick Boudier (in green) leaping in the lineout.

**AT a sunny Tondur RFC, the Vale under-15 rugby team overcame Bridgend schools by 18-12 in the Morgan Griffiths plate competition quarter-final.**

Both teams started well, with Bridgend getting the first score with a try by their burly No 8 after a close range lineout drive, adding the conversion to make it 7-0.

The Vale hit back through some good handling in the backs using Morgan Williams, Jacob Burgess, Matt Allen and Kieron Mitchell, and were awarded a number of penalties. Ed Howley made certain of one and hit the upright with another.

Before half-time, Owain Lord pounced on a loose ball to score a try. Howley added the conversion to turn around at half-time, 7-10 up.

The second half started particularly well for Bridgend by using their dangerous backs, especially their full-back and right wing, who worked well to create an overlap on the right to score in the corner.

Vale had to defend with both backs and forwards and, from a defensive kick on their own line, a favourable bounce landed in the hands of the chasing Che Pomphrey to gather and feed the supporting James Whittingham,

who did well to find the ever-present Nick Boudier, who powered in from 15 metres out to score near the posts.

Ed Howley's conversion hit the upright again and was adjudged to have missed.

The final five minutes saw a heroic defensive display by the Vale as Bridgend threw everything at them, using the bigger pack and dangerous wide runners. The Vale were up to the task, led by Stef Baker, John Miles, Harry Thomas and Chris Brace.

Vale managed to clear their lines by kicking out of danger, following up well and causing Bridgend to lose possession. The Bridgend full-back was penalised and Howley made sure of the three points.

**Final score: Bridgend 12, Vale of Glamorgan 18.**

In the semi-final against Pontypridd at Hawthorn High School, the result was reversed with Pontypridd running out deserved victors by 26-5. Against a team that had played a number of high calibre matches recently, the Vale schools started well, ably led by Harry Roberts at hooker.

The first exchanges were explosive affairs with neither team taking a backward step.

Ponty were the first to score using their dangerous backline in the first five minutes to score out wide.

Ponty scored two further tries without reply, but the Vale battled well to contain them and score a try of their own from a tap penalty, Harry Roberts driving over after quick thinking by Owain Lord and Chris Brace.

A kick and chase from Ponty saw a mistimed attempt to minor the ball and the Ponty outside-half followed up to score. After a few handbags at six paces a player from each team was sent to the bin and the game got back to business.

Ponty exploited a loose clearance to run wide and score through their left wing, making the final score 26-5.

The team's 15-a-side exploits this season have come to an end but they look forward to the national sevens competition in May. Harry Roberts praised the help and time given by coaches and managers this season to make it such an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

**Vale squad:** Sam Hall, Harry Roberts, Alan Doyle, John Miles, Nick Boudier, Steffan Baker, Kieran Mitchell, Matt Allen, Owain Lord, James Whittingham, Che Pomphrey, Ed Howley, Morgan Williams, Harry Thomas, Jacob Burgess, Mason Good, Lewis Griffiths, Harry D-Bennett, Chris Brace, Dafydd Fardy.



## Rhoose FC show their new kit

*RHOOSE FC's year-2 side are pictured sporting their new kit, kindly supplied by BBM Control Systems. The children were able to run out on Saturday in their new kit for the first time this season.*

## Cowbridge RFC grab last-ditch win over Ponty

**THE Cowbridge under-13s travelled up to Glyncoch to try and avenge a narrow defeat to Pontypridd RFC earlier in the season.**

The game got off to a very fast start and for the first 10 minutes, Cowbridge were under pressure with Ponty securing the first try of the game to take a 7-0 lead.

The Cowbridge pack started to boss their opponents with excellent work from Owain Thomas, Jenkins, Luke John and Tom Evans and Cowbridge started to get a lot of ball, which resulted in a scrum half Tom Lucas scrambling over for a try which was duly converted by Matt Harper, who had a brilliant game at fly half.

The score changed hands several times with Cowbridge constantly on the attack with great runs from Tom Trotman, Rian Thomas and Nathan Robson pushing the Ponty defence at all times, ably supported by the Cowbridge pack who protected the ball at all times.

Ben Jones, who was outstanding at number 8 throughout the game, linked in a move off the back of a scrum to crash over for a score before half time, and further second half tries from Tom Trotman and a last minute length of the field effort from Tom Lucas left Matt Harper to secure the game for Cowbridge with the winning conversion and a final score of Cowbridge 26, Pontypridd 24.

A fantastic team effort played in the best of spirits by two very capable teams enabled Cowbridge to have a very enjoyable journey home – well done boys!

ML

## The under-12s survive the Pentyrch test

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Cowbridge under-12s</b> | <b>34</b> |
| <b>Pentyrch</b>            | <b>19</b> |

**COWBRIDGE visited Pentyrch for the first time this season after defeating them twice previously at home.**

Cowbridge struggled to impose themselves on the home side for the first 10 minutes but an excellent burst through the Pentyrch defence by centre Dan Bunney midway through the first half opened the scoring for the visitors when he scored under the posts; Cai Evans converted.

The faster Cowbridge forwards now began to dominate, with Matthew Keating and Tom Edwards launching a powerful maul which allowed flanker Duncan Ace to breakaway, brushing aside a number of defenders before crashing over for an excellent try in the corner.

A third opportunist try, also unconverted, by scrum half Osian John took the score to 17-0, however, Pentyrch rallied to score a converted try just before half time to leave them with some hope in the second half.

In the second period Pentyrch carried on as

they had finished in the first half by scoring a second try almost immediately, leaving the visitors with a slender three-point lead.

A period of sustained pressure forced Cowbridge onto the back foot and only brave tackling by Charlie Martin, Seán Davies and Michael Thomas prevented their opponents from taking the lead.

However, Cowbridge weathered the storm and hit back in fine style as full back Charlie Pegrum off loaded in a tackle to send wing Harrison Stevens on a 30-yard dash to the line.

A second converted try for Dan Bunney gave the visitors a 15-point lead, but Pentyrch were not to be outdone and fought back well to score a try and reduce the lead to 10 points.

The last 10 minutes of the game were the most exciting as the game swung back and forth, and it was Cowbridge who had the last word, when Dan Bunney completed his hat trick to score the final try.

ML

## Cadoxton Imps under-15s maintain their title bid

**CADOXTON IMPS under-15s travelled to Cogan on Saturday to try to maintain their fantastic unbeaten run.**

The Imps started the stronger and the early pressure paid off when a piledriver from Ashley Cottle nearly broke the Cogan net to give the Imps a well deserved lead.

Cogan gradually made their way back into the match, keeping the impressive Imps defence of Jacob Burgess, Louis Burrows and another top performance by Gage Waller reasonably busy.

Unfortunately, an injury to Jacob meant the Imps had to make an early substitution, thus allowing the welcome return to the team of the ever reliable Tom Dyball, following his recent back injury.

As the Imps took control of the game again, the frontline of Jordan Williams and Callum Harding were starting to look more and more dangerous, coming close to grabbing the all important second goal.

The passing became more assured through-

out the half with the hardworking midfield of Sam Becks, Izaak Farrag, Dan Morgan, Ben Pearce and man of the match Ashley Cottle all becoming instrumental in creating chances.

Midway through the half the Imps got their second when Jordan picked up a pass on the edge of the box and hit a brilliant shot into the bottom corner, giving the Cogan keeper no chance.

Cogan replied well, keeping the ever-brilliant Sam Rees Davies on his toes.

The spell of pressure paid off when a Cogan player fired an absolute screamer into the roof of the net.

The Imps then showed great character with a wonderful counter attacking goal.

The ball was spread to Ben, who flew past the Cogan left back and fed an inch perfect low cross to Callum, who coolly slotted the ball into the bottom corner to give the Imps some breathing space again.

The introduction of Jo Robinson, Kieran Thomas and the highly skillful Kieran Ashton made a positive impact on the game.

The Imps then

wrapped the game up early on in the second half when, following another good attacking move, Dan neatly placed his shot past the Cogan keeper.

The game then eased down, although Jordan nearly grabbed his second goal late on with a

thunderous shot that almost snapped the Cogan bar.

We would all like to wish our goalkeeper Sam all the best with his future prospects at Cardiff City's development academy. Good luck, you deserve it.

JH

## Penarth mixed veterans are marching on

**PENARTH Windsor mixed veterans chalked up a third consecutive win with a resounding victory against Cwmbran.**

Ian and Beth Hughes got off to a shaky start, losing the first three games in their first match, before going on to win the next 12 games to secure a 6-3, 6-0 victory.

Peter Bellingham and Cathy O'Doherty also started slowly, but came back from 4-0 down to win their first set 7-5, and then secured the second set 6-2 to win the match.

In the second round, the Penarth Windsor team played with

increased confidence.

The Hughes team comfortably took their match 6-2, 6-1, while Bellingham and O'Doherty made relatively easy weather of their match to win 6-4, 6-2.

The result was a satisfying 4-0 win for the Seasideers.

The Cwmbran victory is part of a successful season for the Windsor mixed veterans.

They have notched up wins over a previously unbeaten Dinas Powys side, as well as taking the honours against Cowbridge.

For more information, contact Nigel Gabriel 07540 166626.

NG

## Getting ready for new season at St Andrews

**LAST weekend determined the final result of the winter league season at St Andrews Major Golf Club.**

Sam Low and Sarah Gronow clinched the ladies winter league title in a closely fought match with Hilary James and Jane Harris.

Having gone five holes up by the seventh, Sam and Sarah were then pegged back to just one hole before securing their position on the gold leaf board with a two and one win.

This follows on from the mens winter league final, which was won by Craig Johansen and Phil Westcott, and the Wayne Pritchard

memorial which was won by Rob Picton and Mark Cleaver.

The club are eagerly looking forward to the main golf season.

This year promises to be one of the busiest yet at St Andrews, with more events than ever before.

The sponsors cup day has already attracted a large amount of interest from local businesses and offers 'hole in one' prizes of a new car, weekend away, set of golf clubs and golfing vouchers, along with many other 'spot prizes'.

For more information visit the members website [www.samlowgolfclub.com](http://www.samlowgolfclub.com).

JL

## Open cricket day for the juniors

**COWBRIDGE Cricket Club holds a junior open day on Sunday, April 10 at 10.30am at the Athletic Ground.**

There will be registration, coaching by fully qualified ECB coaches, a barbecue and raffle.

The club is keen for all boys or girls, experienced or beginners to get involved.

In addition to weekly coaching, the club will be running junior teams (under-9, under-11, under-13 and under-15) in the Cardiff and The Vale League and the National Knockout Cup.

For further information, contact Ian Evans (junior coordinator) on 01446 - 796211 or visit the Club's website: [www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk](http://www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk).

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# MORTIMORE'S FOUR GOALS HELPS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP CHASE

**SAINTS went goal crazy in this frantic top-of-the-table clash.**

Jordan Mortimore hit four goals, with a Dean Cleave double and one each from Nick Dyke, Leigh Lewis and an own goal adding to the scoring.

Saint Patrick Rovers had the perfect start, however, when Tony Charles, playing at centre-half, scythed down their winger in the box and a spot kick was awarded. Rovers dispatched their spot kick into the net for an early lead inside five minutes.

Saints went on in search of an equaliser and Mortimore hit the bar with a header almost immediately.

Saints kept plugging away and got their reward after 20 minutes. A James Austin free kick was met by the head of Cleave and the midfielder levelled the score.

Rovers went up the other end and stunned Saints straight away when a free kick was fumbled and their big defender smashed in from close range. A frantic few minutes followed as Saints levelled

for the second time four minutes later when a Nicky Cox ball forward was latched on to by Leigh Lewis in the area, and he lifted the ball over the oncoming keeper.

Two minutes later and Saints had the lead for the first time when Mortimore took the ball in his stride and dinked it neatly over the home keeper.

It was another two minutes later when Saints extended their lead. A big boot forward by Gareth Richards in goal eluded the centre-half and Dyke raced on to the ball and produced an exquisite lob over the keeper to score from the edge of the area.

Mortimore then put a penalty away in off the post and Saints had a three-goal cushion.

St Pat's were not to lay down though and had a second penalty, which they scored from.

Seconds away from half-time and a ball into the box by the home side saw a breakdown in communication by the away defence and Charles scored an unfortunate own goal. Saints went in 5-4 up after a pulsating first half.

## Bridgend nd District Sunday League Division One SAINT PATRICK ROVERS SUNDAY SAINTS FC

Saints got the start to the second half they wanted when a Cleave ball into the box was met by the foot of a home defender and the ball looped into his own net.

Saints restored their three-goal cushion minutes later when a Reece Lewis free kick into the box was met by the unmarked Cleave and he headed in his second of the game and an unbelievable 16th in 15 games this season.

St Pat's pulled another one back mid-way through the half after breaking the offside trap, but Saints were comfortable at this point and in full control.

Dyke went on to strike the bar with another great lob and Leigh Lewis struck what looked to be goal of the

game, but the ref failed to play the advantage after a foul on Lewis and the whistle had already gone.

Mortimore completed his hat trick when another Leigh Lewis long throw wreaked havoc in the home area and Joel Tofton's strike was blocked and came out for Mortimore to smash in from eight yards.

The scoring was complete a minute later when Alan Lawson's perfect cross was powered in by the head of Mortimore for his fourth of the game and an incredible 38th goal in 19 games this season.

Saints almost made it 10 when TJ Bowring hit a left-footed effort across goal but it squirmed agonisingly past the far post.

Saints took a while to

get going here but when they did, they were in complete control against a good St Pat's side. Saints need results to go their way to claim the 1st Division title and by winning games like this are doing their part.

Saints are not back in action until April 10 at home against St Patrick Rovers in the semi-final of the 1st Division league cup.

Man of the match was Jordan Mortimore after his four goals helped his team to victory.

Many thanks to Lafarge Cement (Aberthaw Works), The Kinsale Stone Company (Wales) Ltd for sponsorship of the team and to Roy and Cyndy at the Four Bells, St Athan for their continued support for the team.

**Saints FC:** G Richards, R Lewis, A Lawson, A Charles, N Cox (captain), T Roberts, D Cleave, J Austin (J Tofton on 72 minutes), L Lewis (R Collings on 81 minutes), J Mortimore, N Dyke (TJ Bowring on 82 minutes). Subs: J Tofton, R Collings, G Morgans, TJ Bowring.

HD

# Dinas Powys FC find it no fun to play at the YMCA!

**THIS was the worst result, and probably the poorest performance of the season for Dinas against a YMCA side boosted by their 1-1 draw the week before against top of the table side Ton Pentre.**

Dinas weren't able to get any fluency in their football on a lively pitch during a first-half with YM edging possession, but Dinas having the best opportunities to get on the scoresheet.

On thirty-two minutes, a Ben Dimond corner found Dave Penkett at the far post who somehow managed to hook the ball back for Gareth Tedstone, his shot hit the upright.

A few minutes later a good ball out of defence found Tedstone who crossed for Barrie Gunstone, whose first-time shot hit the same post and bounced down into the grateful arms of Mark Mears in the YM goal.

At the other end, Naill Yates headed a free-kick wide and an Oliver Beckett cross forced Dave Burnett in the Dinas goal to punch the

| Welsh League Division Two |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Newport YMCA              | 4 |
| Dinas Powys               | 0 |

ball out for a corner. In the second-half Dinas just didn't get going, their cause not helped when they lost two influential players, Dave Penkett and Barrie Gunstone, to injury.

Twenty minutes into the half, the home side took the lead when an innocuous thirty yard free-kick was deflected to substitute Daniel Edwards, who scored with a low shot from eight yards.

Just before the goal Dave Burnett in the Dinas goal had made an excellent save from a Yeates header, but he couldn't do anything when he was beaten by Oliver Beckett's deflected shot from twenty yards.

The best goal of the game came from YM captain Alex Jenkins, who didn't need any help from a deflection with his long range 25 yard effort.

The visitors' misery was complete when a low cross found Aaron Stewart, who had the simplest task of scoring

from close range to give the home side a fully deserved three points.

With a certain Wales v England match next Saturday, Dinas travel to Ammanford for a rearranged game on the Sunday.

**Squad:** Dave Burnett, Rhodri Foote, Danny Street, Michael Hayward, Dave Penkett, Jon Carpenter, Ricki Morgan, Liam Jones, Barrie Gunstone, Gareth Tedstone, Ben Dimond. Subs: Stephen Provis, Mark Dunford, Dan Jose.

Next game, Welsh League Division Two, Ammanford v Dinas Powys, Sunday, March 27, kick off 2.30pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site: [www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk](http://www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk)

MW

## Barry under-8s miss out in tournament



**BARRY under-8s played their part in an excellent rugby tournament at Llandaff North RFC on Sunday.**

In Barry's group were the hosts Llandaff, Penarth and Rumney.

In the first match, Barry played Penarth. This game was nip and tuck for the full match, and a draw was a fair result.

The second game saw the Vale side up against the host side. Barry went about their business, and ran in worthy 7-5 winners.

This left Barry knowing a draw or win in their last game against Rumney would see them through. Barry started

slowly in what turned out to be the most entertaining game of the day as they just lost out, 6-4.

All the players from Barry played with great team spirit.

D Parry-Griffiths and C Saunders scored plenty of tries in the three games.

Z. Field, B Phillips, J Roberts, and I Escott all showed great support play and tagging, while E Rudolph, C Denbury and Dylan all carried the ball well.

Finally, J Couch proved a great battering ram as Barry looked to gain yardage.

Well done boys and girls, first class display from all and great sportmanship shown by all players yet again.

LS

## BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB

**LATEST results from Barrivale:**

Tuesday, March 1 - 1st, Mick Green and Mike Close 66.67 per cent; 2nd, Kay Dyer and Jane Brook 58.73; 3rd, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond 55.56. Mick & Mike also won on handicap.

Tuesday, March 8 - 1st, Noelle Bond and Mick Green 61.11 per cent; 2nd, Hilary Laurence and Denis Mottram 54.76; 3rd, Adrian Thomas and Bryn Gough 53.17.

Hilary and Denis won on handicap. New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

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# THIS SATURDAY PROMISES TO BE QUITE THE DAY FOR HUNT-RACING ENTHUSIASTS

**LOCAL** hunt racing enthusiasts will be flocking to Uplands, Ystradowen, on Saturday, March 26, for the annual Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases which sees the start of the season in the Vale.

Racing gets under way at 2pm with the members' race and during the afternoon, there will be a parade of hounds. The mixed open race will be run at 4.30pm and the last race on the card is the restricted race at 5.05pm.

Meanwhile, the most popular winner at the Currie and Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases was Gwynne Phillips's *Books*

*Review* (Open Maiden Division 3) who, well ridden by John Mathias, got up on the run to the winning post to overtake *Wilkinson*, partnered by Tom David, who had jumped the last in front.

*Books Review*, a seven-year-old bay gelding trained by former leading lady rider Shan Farr, of *Mandryka* fame, was bred by his owner, a retired steel worker well known on the hunt racing circuit, and who was absolutely delighted.

The ladies' open race was won by Beth Roberts' *Chesnut Annie*, who was recording her 25th success.

*Chesnut Annie*, who like *Books Law* is qualified by the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt, led from start to finish to win by 10 lengths from *Blue Business*.

Willie Twiston-Davies, 16 year-old son

of leading National Hunt trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies, took the men's open race winning by a comfortable three lengths from *Burntoakboy*.

Meanwhile, Tom David, former conditional jockey to Aherthin's Tim Vaughan, has reverted back to being an amateur rider after finding it difficult to get many rides from trainers other than Vaughan.

Tom (20), who has ridden point-to-point winners for Princess Anne, said: "I was never going to be in the top 15-20 jockeys, so I thought it best to go back to being an amateur."

"I didn't want to go past the number of winners - 25 - that would have meant I couldn't go back."

Ffos Las Racecourse has proved a happy hunting ground for Llancarfan's Evan Williams, who saddled the racecourse's first ever winner.

At the recent last meeting his *MickMacGoolie* came in at odds of 5-1, while on the same day at Newton Abbot earlier in the day his *Alla Svelta* won the opener.

Williams and Vaughan had both winners at Fontwell on Wednesday, Vaughan scored with *Piment D'estral* and

## ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Williams with *Gurtacruie*.

At Chepstow, Williams was successful with 16-1 outsider *Extreme Pact* who landed the handicap hurdle under T J O'Brien.

### MATHIAS'S UNIQUE SIX-TIMER

HUNT racing history was made at the Tivyside Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechase at Cilwendig on Sunday when John Mathias, a 20-year-old farmer's son, who is the reigning Welsh champion point-to-point rider, landed a unique six-timer.

Mathias won the first five races he rode in and then, after finishing fourth on the favourite *Cilhiwron* in the first division of the confined maiden, won the next division of the race on *Banagher* a horse which also gave him his first win as a trainer.

Mathias' six winners were *Balearic Star* (Members), *Lydstep Hills* (Confined), *Pathian Prince* (Intermediate), *Rosies Peacock* (Men's Open), *Saint Petray* (Restricted) and *Banagher* (Maiden Division Two).

Racegoers stayed

behind after Mathias's sixth winner to congratulate him and some even asked him to autograph their racecards!

Local and national press photographers took pictures of him when he returned to the winners' enclosure after his sixth and final winner, and the atmosphere was electric.

In the long history of the sport, no other rider has ridden six winners between-the-flags on any one day - only a few have managed to achieve five-timers.

Only two of the 11 entries faced the starter for the AGA Ladies open race and this resulted in another win for Beth Roberts' *Chesnut Annie* who, ridden by regular rider Welsh champion Isabel Tompsett, finished alone after Keith Pritchard's *Chandlers Cross*, partnered by Jodie Hughes, pulled up three fences from the finish when a long way behind.

Ogmore's Nick Williams rode a well-judged race on Huw Goldsworthy's *Atmywisland* to land the first division of the confined maiden race coming home by three lengths ahead of *Mini Palm* ridden by Bradley

Gibbs. Jordan Williams, aged 12, riding *Tommy's Girl* the outsider of three in the 14.2hh pony race, made nearly all the running to beat the odds-on favourite *Springs*.

Jordon, a pupil of Rhymney Comprehensive School, who likes looking after the sheep on his grandfather Bernard Llewellyn's Bargoed farm, has hopes of becoming a flat racing jockey.

The 13.2hh pony race was won by Lorcan Williams (aged 11), no relation to Jordan Williams, on his chestnut mare *Pennway Tap Dance*, who also made all the running after being backed from 3-1 to off the boards.

### TIM'S RUN OF SECONDS

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan made a bold bid to saddle his first Cheltenham Festival winner last week, but unfortunately he ended up in the place reserved for the runner-up on three occasions.

On the Wednesday, his *Beshabar* was given a cracking ride by Tom David in the four-mile National Hunt Chase Challenge Cup but the 5-1 favourite *Chicago Grey*, who ironically had brought down *Beshabar* in a race at Cheltenham

in November, proved too speedy on the run-in and won by four and a half lengths.

Then, in the Wetherby's Champion Bumper (Standard NH Flat Race) - the final race on the card - Tim's 66-1 outsider *Destroyer Deployed* under Aidan Coleman finished runner-up to the Peter Hobbs-trained *Cheltenham* by five lengths.

The following day, Tim ran his *Nemo Spirit* in the St Patrick's Day Derby (charity race) and ridden by Rodger Sargent, this six-year-old finished second to the Henry Cecil-trained *Hotpot Plato* partnered by Lorna Fowler.

To train a horse to finish in the first three at the Cheltenham Festival is meeting in itself, so Tim should not be too disappointed that he didn't quite make the winner's enclosure on this occasion.

Meanwhile, Sam Waley-Cohen, who won the Gold Cup on *Long Run* (at six, the youngest horse in the race) is no stranger to hunt-racing enthusiasts in the Vale. In 2002, 2003 and 2004 he won the Welsh Point-To-Point 'Grand National' at Bonvilston on his father Robert's French-bred *Down*. No other horse has achieved this feat.

And did you know that *Holmwood Legend*, which won the Byrne Group Plate at Cheltenham on the Thursday, was a winner at the Countryside Alliance Point-To-Point meeting at Bonvilston in 2009?

### COWBRIDGE RIDER'S DOUBLE CENTURY!

James Tudor, assistant trainer to Llancarfan's Evan Williams and a former national point-to-point champion rider, chalked up his 200th winner-between-the-flags and under rules - when landing the men's open race on *Alan Hill's Start Royal* at the Bicester With Whaddon Chase at Whitfield on Sunday.

*Start Royal* beat *Up There*, owned by Rae Jones, and qualified with the Pentyrch Hunt.

Evan Williams landed a 35-1 double at Ffos Las on Saturday with *Prince Massini* and *Cold Harbour*. The former was ridden by Paul Moloney and the later by Aidan Conlan.

Kenfig Hill's Rhys Flint won the opener on 25-1 chance *Street Dance* for West Wales trainer Keith Goldsworthy.

## Netball teams looking sharp!

THANKS to sponsorship from international transport and logistics company, SDV Logistics (based in Llantrisant), Barry Netball Club's A and B teams will be competing in the Cardiff and District Netball League in striking new black/orange kits.

The club is looking for new players (over-15 and adult). Thinking of taking up netball, refreshing your school netball skills or simply getting fit?

For more information, go to [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment).

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| 165/60R14 Bridgestone ER300 | £70.25 | £133  | £255  | 165/60R14 Avon ZPS | £54.25 | £104  | £199  | £38.25        |
| 165/60R15 Bridgestone ER300 | £79.25 | £152  | £291  | 165/60R15 Avon ZPS | £58.25 | £113  | £214  | £39.25        |
| 165/60R15 Bridgestone ER300 | £67.25 | £128  | £245  | 165/60R15 Avon ZPS | £53.25 | £102  | £194  | £40.25        |

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| 195/50R15 Bridgestone ER300 | £68.25 | £138  | £265  | 195/50R15 Avon ZPS | £55.25 | £103  | £199  | £43.25        |
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# GEM sport

## Can Wales get up to speed before the autumn leaves fall?

**S**O there you have it, another frustrating, up-and-down Six Nations campaign that in the case of Wales, began in cautious optimism at Cardiff, flickered into life in Edinburgh and Rome, and ended with barely a whimper in Paris.

Sandwiched in between the opening 26-19 loss to England and last Saturday's 28-9 defeat to France, were the three victories over Scotland (24-6), Italy (24-16), and Ireland (19-13), that had put Wales in with an outside chance of snaffling the championship when England's Grand Slam dream was ruthlessly snuffed out in Dublin.

Indeed, when the Welsh players ran out at Parc des Princes on Saturday evening, they already knew that the Irish team they had narrowly overcome just a week before, had manfully regrouped to defeat Martin Johnson's tournament favourites far more comprehensively than the 24-8 final score suggested.

What greater incentive could there have been for Wales to follow Ireland's inspired example and come out with all guns blazing against a new-look French side drastically revamped following their coach's scathing criticism in the wake of losing for the first time ever to wooden spoonists Italy?

Now was the time to seize the moment and make a heroic attempt to close the yawning 27-point gap to the championship title – or at least round off the Six Nations on a tri-

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

umphant note in the last meaningful match before the Rugby World Cup in the autumn.

Instead, in the space of 80 minutes, Wales slumped from second place in the table, to their now seemingly entrenched fourth spot, as they failed to rise to the challenge against an unremarkable French team that had little more to do than snap up the easy opportunities handed to them on a plate by basic Welsh shortcomings.

Wales had in fact drawn first blood inside two minutes when outside half James Hook kicked the first of his three penalties which would represent his side's total score.

Morgan Parra replied with two penalty kicks and man-of-the-match Lionel Nallet ended the first half with the first of his two gifted tries to make the score at the change-over 11-3.

When play resumed, Hook struck his third and final penalty, but any lingering hopes of a Welsh fightback vanished with Nallet's second try when he charged down Hook's attempted clearance, followed by a Parra penalty and a converted try while the unfortunate Hook was in the sin bin for a highly-debatable 'dangerous tackle'.

He was replaced by Stephen Jones and (again somewhat belatedly) scrum half Dwayne Peel came off the replacements bench to inject more urgency and pace into Welsh

efforts, but by then the battle and any lingering chance of the championship was lost.

One can only wonder if the outcome may have been different if he and Hook had had more time together to make an impact earlier in the match.

Afterwards, a clearly angry head coach Warren Gatland pointed a finger at his players, saying: "They just didn't turn up... The team was not in the right mental frame of mind."

Surely, though, if that was the case, the coaches should not be totally absolved of responsibility for the team's lack of preparedness?

One wonders if bizarre off the field problems in the Welsh camp had been a contributory factor? Defence coach Shaun Edwards had been omitted from the party travelling to Paris on disciplinary grounds, following an altercation with a backroom colleague.

This may well have been an unwelcome distraction for the players just when everyone in the back room should have been singing from the same song sheet before such a crucial game...

One can only hope that it was an isolated incident and not symptomatic of underlying problems in the Welsh camp during the run-in to yet another Rugby World Cup.

We've all been down that road before!

Be that as it may, the Welsh camp surely has some serious on-field thinking to do, with so little time left to the start of the World Cup in the autumn.

Not least is the underlying core approach to a style of play which at present puts the main emphasis on muscular defence and tight control, rather than a more fluid, instinctive game played at pace.

The need for a rock-solid platform is of course undeniable (particularly in this age of giants!) given well-chronicled past weaknesses, but it cannot be an end in itself.

Moreover, in the process Welsh individual flair is now at risk of becoming an endangered species – along with what I would call 'the art of the unexpected' in which so many great Welsh players of the past naturally excelled.

Sadly, the present approach (with rare exceptions, epitomised by the mercurial Shane Williams) rarely contains that subtle element of surprise – and potent speed of hand and foot which was once a distinguishing feature of Welsh play.

There is no question that the present-day squad of players are potentially every bit as talented as their forebears, but the sum is not always equal to the parts and frustrating inconsistency continues to be a major concern for the Welsh camp.

They now have a handful of summer warm-up games in which to put this right before world rugby's most testing knockout competition gets under way Down Under.

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## BARRY AT THEIR BEST IN BLACKWEIR

**BARRY** travelled to Cardiff last Saturday to face a side, which despite being at the bottom of their division, had beaten the visitors in a Cup game earlier this season.

The weather was fine and warm and with a firm ground, conditions were ideal for running rugby.

The Barry pack was on the light side, but what they conceded in weight, they more than compensated with their speed over the ground.

They were also quicker-thinking than their opponents.

The visitors started at a fast pace, with Hadfield covering lots of ground and Lee making huge yardage out of hand.

The St Joseph's defence was already creaking and the pressure told after only eight min-

utes. Following good linked approach work by Degauru and King, Lee was ushered over at the corner flag. The extra points were added by Cummings with a good kick from the touchline.

Totally against the run of play and on one of their very few forays out of their half, the home team cut the deficit, as their drop goal came from a stout but efficient scrum half.

Further pressure from the pack gave space for Ryan to come into the line, where he duly found Hadfield in support to score a well-engineered try.

The conversion sailed just wide of a post, and for the next quarter of an hour, the Barry side demonstrated their all round skills.

Of particular note was good defensive tackling, especially by A Evans

**ST JOSEPHS RFC**  
**BARRY RFC**

**6**  
**34**

and Provis, which began to sap the strength of the St Joseph's tight forwards.

Provis then got onto the scoreboard with a try from the halfway line, which remained unconverted.

The fourth and bonus point try duly arrived on the stroke of half time.

It was scored by Degauru and was reportedly only the second try of his career!

The extras were added by Cummings to make the score 6-24 at the interval.

The contents of the referee's water bottle are a closely guarded secret, but from being a good arbiter in the first half, he became something of a Jekyll and Hyde.

He ruled out what appeared to be a St

Joseph's territory for long periods of the second period. They got just rewards for their tenacity via a good short range try by the impressive Barry captain.

Team: Ryan, Taylor, Busitil, Cummings, Provis, Lee, Gullivan, Hunt, A Evans, Morgan, King, Degauru, O'Sullivan, Hadfield, Jones. Subs: Campbell, Elsworth, J Evans, Williams.

Towards the finish, Hadfield fell foul of the referee who issued a yellow card, but even down to 13 men, there was lit-

tle danger of the home team spoiling the party. Indeed, the scoring was completed with a 50-metre kick by the Barry captain.

This Saturday, Barry entertain Porth RFC at the Reservoir Field, kick off 2.30pm. **CO**

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